STARS STRIPES.

The big deal is done: Lakers trade Shag to Heat Page 30

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Kitty Hawk mourns sailor who died in fall

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FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2004



50¢

Rew puts brakes on dangerous driving

Misawa's new commander implements crackdown to keep relations with community sound Page 3





o, northwestern Japan, on Wednesday. Heavy rains oding hit northwestern Japan, leaving at least six

Left: A Japan Self-Defense Forces member carries a dent through a flooded street in Nagaoka, northern , as the residents are transferred from a flooded ter. At the epicenter of the flooding, in Tochio, 135 s northwest of Tokyo. 17 inches of rain had fallen in

Northern Japan floods kill 6, displace 20,000



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Ne ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

U.S. deficit: The government's deficit ballooned to \$326.6 billion in the first nine months of the 2004 budget year, according to a snapshot of U.S. balance sheets released Tuesday

in Washington.

That's more than 20 percent larger than the \$269.7 billion shortfall for the corresponding period last year. For the current budget year, which began Oct. 1, this spending has totaled \$1.73 trillion, 6.4 percent more than the same period a year ago.

more than the same period a year ago.

Revenues came to \$1.40 trillion, 3.5 percent more than the previous year.

Consumer spending: America's shoppers had a tight grip on their pocketbooks and wallets in June, dropping sales at the nation's retailers by 1.1 percent. It was the largest decline in 16 months.

The buying retreat, reported Wednesday by the Commerce Department in Washington, came after shoppers had splurged in May. In that month, they pushed merchants' sales up by a strong 1.4 percent, a showing that was even better than first estimated a month ago.

Bad weather and the lingering effects of high energy prices were blamed for the pullback, economists said.

Anthrax investigation: A bioterrorism expert who was named by government authorities as a "person of interest" in the 2001 anthrax attacks has sued The New York Times, saying the newspaper ruined his reputation by pointing to him as the culprit. Steven J. Harfill filled the lawsuit Tuesday

Steven J. Hatfill filed the lawsuit Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va. He charged that a series of columns by Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Nicholas Kristof was irresponsible by failing to seek, or rejecting, statements of denials from Hatfill.

In several columns in 2002, Kristof faulted the FBI for not actively investigating a scientist he identified as "Mr. Z."

Descriptions of the "Mr. Z" were detailed enough that readers could recognize him as Hatfill and subsequent columns later identified him, the complaint states.

Hatfill also has a lawsuit pending against Attorney General John Ashcroft and other government authorities.

Overtime rules: Disputing Bush administration estimates, a liberal think tank said Wednesday that new federal rules will remove overtime protections for at least 6 million U.S. workers.

The study by the Economic Policy Institute was released a day after three former



Calif. wildfires: David DeFraene, a U.S. Forest Service firefighter, watches helicopters loadd with water Tuesday. Wildfires raged out of control Wednesday in three Southern California counties as crews braced for another day of 100-degree temperatures. About 17,000 acres of brush and forest have burned in Riverside, Los Angeles and San Diego counties. No homes were destroved but dozens have been evacuated.

Labor Department officials said in a report requested by the AFL-CIO that "large numbers" of employees entitled to overtime would no longer get it when the new rules take effect Aug. 23.

World

USS Cole bombing: Five alleged al-Qaida members accused of plotting the 2000 attack on the American destroyer USS Cole refused Wednesday for a second time to enter pleas, saying at their high-security trial in San'A, Yemen, that they had yet to speak with their lawyers.

The court ordered prosecutors of the bombing that killed 17 U.S. sailors to hand over case files to the defense and give defense lawyers access to their clients.

In October 2000, two suicide bombers brought a small boat alongside the destroyer as it refueled in Aden harbor. The bombers detonated explosives stashed aboard their boat, killing themselves and 17 sailors, and blasting a huge hole in the destroyer's hull.

Flooding in India: An overflowing river spilled into an Indian city of half a million people Wednesday, and overnight landslides in mountainous Nepal killed more people, bringing the death toll across South Asia from monsoon flooding to at least 326.

Even as large areas remained under water, officials in India worried that too much rain in the country's east could mean a weak monsoon — perhaps a drought—for the country's northern and western breadbasket region, where farmers are still awaiting rains to sow crops.

The most deaths — 197 — have occurred in India since the torrential monsoon rains began in mid-June.

Marcos dictatorship: The Philippine government on Wednesday took steps to seize \$40 million in funds of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos that a U.S. federal judge ordered distributed to thousands of Filipino human rights victims.

Hawaii District Judge Manuel L. Real ordered Tuesday that the funds be transferred from escrow to an account set up by the court in 1995, when a Honolulu jury awarded a class action by 9,539 Filipinos \$2 billion after finding Marcos responsible for summary executions, disappearances and torture during his 14-year martial law rule.

The award has grown to \$3.7 billion with interest, but none of the victims has received any money.

Stories and photo from wire services

Drive away with the best deals in town!



Rew declares war on bad driving habits

New 35th Fighter Wing chief also planning more war-like training

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Less than two weeks before Brig. Gen. Bill Rew took command of the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa in April, a 19-year-old sailor assigned to the base was involved in a fatal wreck that killed a Jananese national.

Then in May, a 19-year-old airman collided with a local driver, killing the woman. And it almost happened a third time in June, when a military member from Misa-

wa seriously injured a local woman.

Rew had enough. He swiftly enacted tougher driving penalties, to include:

■ Drivers caught speeding more than 30 kilometers per hour over the posted limit will lose driving privileges for three months.
■ Motorists who receive moving viola-

tions, such as speeding tickets, must take a defensive driving course within seven days or fork over their licenses for at least one week or until they have completed the class.

Anyone cited for "driving while under the influence" off base must forgo driving for one year.

"I remind everybody that driving here at Misawa is a privilege, it's not a right," Rew said, "and so I'm allowed to and will take away driving privileges." At stake, besides the lives of Japanese

At stake, besides the lives of Japaness and American citizens, is what base leaders call the best military-host nation relationship in Japan.

"What we do here in Misawa is too important to Japan, to the Pacific region, to have these driving incidents put that relationship in jeonardy." he said.

tionship in jeopardy," he said.

Rew said the three crashes resulted from negligent driving, a combination of excessive speed and inattention.



Brig. Gen. Bill Rew

Misawa Mayor Shigeyoshi Suzuki knows that "Americans sometimes have trouble adjusting to the Japanese driving conditions," Rew said. "He asks us routinely to

make sure our folks are driving slowly.

"If we just slow down, that could solve a large number of our problems."

Rew, who joined the Air Force in 1975, came to Misawa from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., where he served as director of operations, Headquarters 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces. This is his second assignment at Misawa. He's 46 years old and considers Columbia, S.C., to be his hometown.

Though he was quick to implement some tough driving policies, Rew said he "didn't come in with a mandate to fix anything. The wing was in great shape when Gen. [Dana] Atkins gave it to me and I want to keep it in great shape."

The general's focus, as wing and installation commander, is twofold, he said: To ensure that the wing is able to execute its mission and that Misawa Air Base continues to be a fine place to live, work and play.

To the mission, Rew brings real-world experience. "Prior to coming here, I spent a great deal of time in the desert in Southwest Asia — Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar, various places," he said, looking at how "our airmen are fighting the current war on terrorism."

Rew said he wants the "Wild Weasels" of the 35th Fighter Wing to be the best in the Air Force at their primary mission of destroying surface-to-air missile sites.

But the commander said he's also committed to ensuring all of Misawa's airmen, from civil engineers to police, are trained to perform their combat mission at home and abroad.

The global war on terrorism has changed the scope of some of those missions, Rew said. "We have airmen doing things now that they weren't doing two years ago in the desert."

For example, a few years ago the Air Force's security forces focused on the defense of bases inside the perimeter, Rew said. "But as we went into Iraq and Afghanistan, and we're working on bases where airmen are living with soldiers in a joint en-

vironment, the airmen and soldiers are doing more of the security operations outside the wire."

Rew recently authorized using wing Mew for the by a training tool to help Misawa's security forces prepare for this new expeditionary role. They'll shoot modified 'bullets' with paint—not a real bullet but not a paint ball, either; they'll feel the rounds hit them, Rew said. It will allow them to train more realistically for convoy escorts, joint patrols and other deployment.

"It's something that security forces and police are just starting to do in the States. We're trying to lead the way" in the Pacific Air Forces, he said.

Misawa airmen also will be put to the test in exercises with more real-world combat scenarios, Rew said, noting the base's next Operational Readiness Exercise's is scheduled this fall. The commander said he'll have a hand in drawing up the scenarios, some of which will be based on his experience in the desert.

Airmen shouldn't expect more exercises during his tenure, but the focus of such training will change some he said

"Exercises are always tough. We have to do them, they're painful, we always learn a lot from them and we always get better from them," he said.

This year's budget crunch across Pacific Air Forces poses some challenges, Rew said. "Tve been in the Air Force long enough to know that some years the budget is very strong and others, money goes other places, all in the Defense Department. This particular year is a little challenging for us but we're still able to train and operate."

ve re sun able to train and operate.

Kitty Hawk holds memorial service for sailor who fell from building

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY AND HANA KUSUMOTO Stars and Strings

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A memorial service for the USS Kitty Hawk sailor who police say apparently fell to his death Saturday from a Yokosuka apartment building was held Wednesday aboard the carrier.

The service for Stephen Hecht, 20, an E-3 fireman who'd been in the Navy for about two years, was not open to the public.

not open to the public.

More than 200 sailors, many from the engineering division where Hecht worked, gather worked, sailor leadings and the playing of taps, said Lt. Brook DeWalt, Kitty Hawk spokesman. Friends and colleagues also shared their memories of Hecht, who was described as a knowledgeable, hard worker interested in basketball, weight-lifting and movies and who also knew how to make people laugh.

"It was a celebration of his life," said Cmdr. Mike Schutz, Kitty Hawk chaplain, "and an opportunity to say goodbye. It allows his shipmates to grieve for him."

Hecht, from Yuba City, Calif., died around 4 p.m. Saturday after apparently falling from a seventh-floor walkway of a downtown Yokosuka apartment building called the Nic Heim Yokosuka Chuo, near the city's main train station, Yokosuka police said.

Police said Wednesday they have all but ruled out homicide in the death for several reasons. Hecht was alone, according to several witnesses who saw him shortly before he died, and there were no signs of a struggle or conflict.

Police also said witnesses who saw Hecht beforehand, including a man in a barbershop and people in the Nic Heim elevator, said Hecht appeared to be highly in-

Hecht was seen going alone into the apartment building, police said, although why he did so is unclear. Hecht did not live there and Yokosuka police said they didn't know if Hecht was going to visit a building resident or even whether he knew anyone there.

Police said they have no theory on how Hecht could have fallen from the walkway, which has a 46-inch-high railing. There was a "possibility" that he was climbing on the railing, they said, although no one reported seeing that.

Yokosuka police said they doubted Hecht's death was a suicide because, a spokesman said, "It is unlikely that a person will commit suicide while drunk."

However, studies indicate that about a third of U.S. suicide victims had a substantial level of alcohol in their systems when they died, according to the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information.

Naval Criminal Investigative Service investigators are conducting a separate investigation into Hecht's death.

"We don't know what happened yet. Anything else is speculation," DeWalt said. "We need to let the investigation take its course That's the bottom line."

course. That's the bottom line." Yokosuka police said one witness called them to report seeing a man falling from the building but that the witness did not see how it occurred. Police said the call came around 4 p.m., although earlier reports say Hecht fell around 5:30 p.m. Hecht was taken to a local hospital, were he

was pronounced dead.

DeWalt said Hecht was pronounced dead at 7 p.m. but it was unclear whether he had died at the scene or the hospital.

An autopsy was scheduled for Thursday at the base hospital, he

Hecht's body will be sent home to California, DeWalt said, escorted by a senior member of Hecht's division on the Kitty Hawk.

Hecht is the first Kitty Hawk sailor to die since November 2001, when a sailor was lost overboard. DeWalt said.

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Cope Thunder to help pilots hone war skills

BY VINCE LITTLE Stars and Stripes

Officials plan to launch Cooperative Cope Thunder this week, the Air Force's largest multilateral air-combat exercise in the Pacific.

The annual drill, which was to begin Thursday and will run through July 30, is being staged at Eielson and Elmendorf Air Force bases in Alaska.

Singapore, Germany, the United Kingdom, Mongolia, Canada, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Australia are among the nations signed up to take part this year.

The Japan Air Self-Defense Force, also headed to the exercise, is deploying F-15s to the United States for just the second time, said Maj. Eric Hilliard, a 5th Air Force spokesman. The Indian air force is sending its fighter aircraft to American soil for the first time, he added. That country is set to operate out of Eielson.

About 210 servicemembers from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, are taking part in the Alaska drill, said Maj. Brenda Campbell, a Cope Thunder spokeswoman based at Elmendorf, with 160 headed to Elmendorf for the F-15 maneuvers and 50 going to Eielson to support KC-135 refueling missions. Yokota Air Base, Japan, is sending a handful of representatives.

Cope Thunder simulates the combat conditions pilots would face in wartime, Hilliard said. At the end of each session, mission evaluators will critique aircrews.

"Each day will end with a debrief conducted by all the persons involved in the day's flying events," Campbell said. "They are not graded but rather they note what tactics, techniques and procedures they accomplished well and what others need to be reviewed fur-

Cope Thunder gives Air Force units a chance to sharpen air combat skills, exchange air-operations tactics and promote closer relations among participating nations, she added

More than 1,800 people are attending the exercise, including about 680 U.S. servicemem-

E-mail Vince Little at: littlev@pstripes.osd.mil

GAO finds Navy overspending on phone bills

longer needed.

BY LARRY MARGASAK

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - First there were misused Pentagon credit cards. Now come misused phones. Investigators say the Navy roupaid exorbitant telephone bills, wasted calling plan minutes and couldn't identify who made credit card calls from Norfolk.

Va., that in some cases lasted for days. The Navy's management of phone cards and long-distance plans "creates a fertile environment for fraud, waste and abuse, Government Accountability which recently changed its name from the General Accounting Office, in an investiga-

tive report. The phone problems are the latest revelations to concern members of Congress who already have heard horror stories about Pentagon employees using government credit cards to make personal purchases at hardware, electronic and lingerie stores, even

The Navy is wasting valuable telephone money while "families are forced to send their sons and daughters deployed around the world calling cards to phone home," said Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., who requested

the investigation of Navy phone expenses. That investigation painted a portrait of shoddy management in which Navy superiors didn't even know they were paying for telephone calling cards, and employees on expensive cell phone calling plans weren't

using 98 percent of their allowable minutes. Congressional investigators could not determine whether calling cards were used for personal long-distance conversations, because Navy officials who approved the charges often were unable to identify the

A Navy spokeswoman, Lt. Amy Gilliland, said only, "The Navy will review the final re-

port once it is officially released. The investigation was limited to a half-dozen facilities, but the GAO said that

was enough to determine the Navy wasn't watching its telephone spending with a critical eye.

For instance: ■ One location paid \$36,000 over three years for long distance services that were no

■ In addition to wasting unused minutes, other cellular users cost the Navy \$34,000 by exceeding their allotted monthly minutes. ■ Units paid \$25,700 for late fees and

other erroneous charges. The hill with calls exceeding 24 hours was found at a computer and telecommunications facility in Norfolk

These calls included 4-day, 10-day and 12-day phone calls, which all originated from different phone numbers at different times," the report said. "The length of these calls alone should have prompted further investigation but, because the invoice was never properly reviewed, the billing errors went unnoticed" until found by investiga-

Looking closely at 10 of the calls, inspec tors found, "In 7 of the 10 cases ... officials who approved the invoices could neither provide us with an explanation for the length of the calls nor could they provide us with valid points of contact for the activities responsi-

ble for the calls." Investigators learned two calls apparently resulted from circuit malfunctions and the Navy has sought refunds from the vendor. the report found.

Shared calling cards were especially vulnerable to potential fraud, the report said. An official on the destroyer USS Mitscher said he gave the same card and personal identification numbers to several officers as needed, but lost track of how many had the

On July 6, 2003, users of the card made 189 calls that originated from 12 cities in five states and Canada. The calls went to 12 countries, totaled 55 hours and cost more

Troops' tabby earns his stripes

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - Staff Sgt. Rick Bousfield of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team had a mission: Saving Private Hammer.
Pfc. Hammer is an Iraqi tabby cat the unit adopted

after he was born last fall at a base in Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad.

When Bousfield found out his Fort Carson, Colo., unit was leaving Iraq in March, he decided he couldn't leave a member of his team behind.

"He has been through mortar attacks," said Bous-field, a 19-year Army veteran. "He'd jump and get scared liked the rest of us. He is kind of like one of

Pfc. Hammer got his name from the unit that adopted him, Team Hammer. Soldiers would tuck Hammer in their body armor during artillery attacks, and in return. Hammer chased mice in the mess hall.

The kitten earned his rank after nabbing five mice. When Bousfield learned his unit was going, he sent an e-mail to Alley Cat Allies, a national clearinghouse of information on stray cats, asking for help bringing

Hammer along Alley Cat Allies raised \$2,500 for Hammer's shots, sterilization, paperwork and a plane ride to the Unit-ed States. Hammer left Iraq with his unit in March, then flew from Kuwait to San Francisco in cargo class. He traveled first class with an Alley Cat Allies

Bousfield met Hammer at the airport

HAGATNA, Guam - The gov-

ernment of Guam is seeking at

least \$6 million from the Federal

Emergency Management Agency

for damage inflicted on the territo

ry by Typhoon Tingting late last

has asked President Rush to de-

clare Guam a major disaster area

about \$4.5 million damage to pub-

to expedite federal assistance. A damage assessment shows

Gov. Felix P. Camacho already

month.



NGS. COLO.) GAZETTE/AF

dumning about 20 inches of rain

in just 48 hours. Although Guam

wind damage that other typhoons

caused Tingting did cause flood-

ment will do is Henry Simpson

who lost the hillside beneath sev-

eral of his homes along Cross Is-

"It's going to be very expensive to fix the problem and I don't know what kind of assistance is going to be available," he said.

Waiting to see what the govern-

ing and mudslides.

not experience the intense

mer, a 10-month-old cat who spent the first nine months of his life in Iraq, used to ride in a truck on supply runs with U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Rick Bousfield, right. When Bousfield returned home, he brought the cat with him. Sheri Bousfield is at left, and daughter Tiffany Bousfield is at center.

U.S., Japan talk in Calif. on possible troop moves

BY VINCE LITTLE Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan -U.S. and Japanese officials are meeting in San Francisco this week on a range of topics tied to the Defense Department's current Global Posture Review, said Air Force Col. Victor Warzinski, a U.S.

Forces Japan spokesman. The two-day session, which was to begin Thursday, is the latest in a series of discussions the two sides have had in the past 18 months, in which they've floated ideas about the notential reorganization and re-

alignment of U.S. forces in Japan Warzinski said he doesn't antici pate any decisions to surface at week's end.

"This is a continuing consulta-tion between allies," he said. "There are military aspects to these talks, including force-structure reviews and security policy on both sides of the alliance

This is part of the normal way manage our alliance.

Richard Lawless, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for Asian and Pacific affairs, is leading the U.S. contingent, which in-cludes Brig. Gen. Tim Larsen, the USFJ deputy commander, and officials from the Pentagon and U.S. Pacific Command. Lt. Gen. Tho mas Waskow, commander of USFJ and the 5th Air Force, was not scheduled to take part. Warzinski

Waskow was unavailable for comment Wednesday; Larsen was en route to San Francisco. The Pentagon would not com-

ment on the nature of the talks.
"The U.S. and Japan engage in consultations on a regular basis, both as part of normal alliance management and, more recently, as part of U.S. efforts to realign the U.S. global force structure and posture," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Flex Plexico on Wednesday.

"It would not be conducive to a frank exchange of views to comment on the content of bilateral discussions.3

Yasumasa Nagamine, the depudirector general of the Japan Foreign Ministry's North Ameri-can Affairs Bureau, planned to attend the meeting, Kyodo News reported last week

The Japanese news agency also reported that the two countries may discuss shifting U.S. Marines on Okinawa to Camp Fuji in mainland Japan and relocating an Army brigade in Washington state

to Camp Zama Warzinski declined to address those reports, saying the San Francisco gathering is just another "brainstorming" session designed to solidify the alliance's future.

ee lots of ideas, but do not mistake those as fact," he said.
"Many ideas are just blatantly
wrong. They don't represent any
firm policies." firm policies

Two objectives are in play at this week's bilateral talks, Warzinski

"We want to strengthen and support our relationship," he said. "Japan is a cornerstone of northeast Asian regional security and that's something we hope to enhance.

"Secondly, both governments are committed to easing the burden of our presence on Okinawa. How we accomplish that is still a matter for discussion. No decisions have been made."

U.S. officials hope to have proposals ready for presidential review within the next few months, Warzinski said.

Sandra Jontz contributed to this report from the Pentagon.

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U.S.. Rwanda to share info

KIGALI, Rwanda - Senior U.S. and Rwandan defense officials on Tuesday signed their first agreement to share intelli gence and help train and provide logistical support to Rwanda's military for peacekeeping operations.

Gen. Charles Wald, deputy commander of the U.S. military's European Command for Europe and Africa, signed the agree ment with Rwandan Defense Minister Gen. Marcel Gatsinzi during a visit to the small central African nation.

Guam seeks U.S. aid for Tingting damage

lic buildings and facilities and an

estimated \$1.5 million in damage

Only 57 homes were deter-

mined to be destroyed or severely

damaged by wind, water and land

slides. That number is 116 homes

short of the minimum require

ment for federal relief funds, but

Camacho said he hopes an excep-

tion will be granted because of

Tingting passed over Guam from June 26 through June 29,

the island's small population.

to residences and businesses.

"This is about ... normalizing our military relations." Wald said after meeting

Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

Rwanda's military, among the most formidable in central Africa, is largely made up of former rebels who ended the 1994 genocide in Rwanda by ousting a government of extremists from the Hutu majority, which orchestrated the slaughter of more than 500,000 people, mostly

In 1998, Rwanda invaded Congo, sparking a five-year war in Congo that drew in the armies of six African countries. The Rwandans accused Congo's leader, Laurent Kabila, of supporting Rwandan insurgents who played a key role in the 1994 genocide.

From The Associated Press

Philippines to withdraw troops from Iraq

Nation moving to meet terrorists' demands, save life of truck driver

BY PAUL ALEXANDER The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines said Wednesday it was withdrawing its small peacekeeping contingent from Iraq early to save the life of a kidnapped truck driver, a dramatic turnaround by one of Washington's biggest backers in the war

The Southeast Asian country earlier vowed it would not yield to pressure to move up its previously scheduled Aug. 20 withdrawal.

on terrorism.

Wednesday's announcement was a blow to the U.S.-led international contingent in Iraq, already weakened by Spain's pullout following the deadly terror attacks on Madrid's train system.

U.S. and Australian officials as well as Iraq's new interim government had expressed displeasure that Manila was even considering caving in to the kidnappers' demand

Captors holding Filipino truck driver Angelo dela Cruz said they would treat him like a prisoner of war if Manila made a good-faith move toward withdrawing early and would free him if the pullout was completed by July 20.

It was unclear when the withdrawal would be finished.

Vice President Noli di Castro urged national unity at a time of

"What is important now is the safety of Angelo," he said in a statement. "There is a proper time for debate. Let us give the government enough time and our trust. With your support and unity, we will be able to resolve this problem with dignity as a na-

Dela Cruz's family, hoping his release was imminent, celebrated with a hearty breakfast of fish and fried chicken in their northern home province of Pampanga.

"We are happy that they are pulling out the troops already in exchange for my brother's freedom," Feliciano dela Cruz said.

Roy Cimatu, Manila's special envoy for the Middle East, said the hostage was reported "alive and well" by Philippine officials.

"There's no risk of execution of Angelo dela Cruz," Cimatu told ABS-CBN television in Baghdad.

Washington had no immediate reaction, U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Tuesday a pullout would send "the wrong message" to hostage-takers and that the United States was continuing talks with Philippine authorities.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer warned the Philippine government Wednesday that all coalition countries in Iraq would "pay the price" for Manila's decision, according to his snokesman.



Relatives and neighbors cry as they say prayers Tuesday for the safe release of Filipino hostage Angelo dela Cruz in Mexico, northern Philippines. Frantically trying to obtain the release of a captive Filipino truck driver with the clock ticking down, the Philippines plans to withdraw its small peacekeeping force from Iraq.

Iraqi Army-Khaled bin Al-Waleed Corps set a withdrawal deadline for the Philippines that expired early Tuesday

But negotiations continued in Iraq through intermediaries.

The insurgents told President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo that dela Cruz, a poor father of eight, had been moved to the place he would be killed if she didn't change her mind.

The crisis put Arroyo squarely between domestic concerns and her previously strong commitment to the United States the Philippines' former colonial

With Islamic and communist terror threats of its own, the Philippines has been relying on Washington to beef up its poorly armed military to battle al-Qaida-linked groups in the restive Muslim

There had been concerns that government concessions in Iraq could encourage local Muslim militants such as the brutal Abu Savyaf group

Militants tried to pressure South Korea by kidnapping one of its citizens in Iraq and demanding that Seoul drop plans to deploy 3,000 troops beginning in August. South Korea refused, and the captive was beheaded last

NAF Atsugi

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*Learn the secrets of the C.I.A Cooking Demonstration: \$30 • Thu, Jul 22 • 2-5 p.m. • O'Club

War is proving political problem for U.S., allies

By SONYA ROSS The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Iraq war is not only a major election-year problem for the Bush administration, it is proving a monumental political pain for America's friends

The Philippine government Tuesday said it was withdrawing its 51-soldier continfrom Iraq ahead of its sched-

uled Aug. 20 departure to save the life of a Filipino hostage. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo faced the decision under pres-sure of a disputed election victory that the opposition still has not conceded while warning of possible mass protests.

Arroyo's foreign undersecre tary was in Iraq trying to work out a deal to save hostage Angelo dela Cruz's life.

An early departure from the unpopular war as demanded by the kidnappers would place the Philippines on the road out of Iraq alongside Spain, which left after a pre-election terrorist attack in Madrid.

The former U.S. colony also is bunched as terror targets with Bulgaria, Egypt, Japan, South Korea, Turkey and the United States, nations whose citizens have been used as bargaining chips by Islamic militants.

Like the others, Arroyo's govern-ment has been subjected to high-level U.S. pleading to stick it out, a strategy that Washington employed success

fully with the oth-

Analysis

ers. The U.S. administration is none too happy with the Philippine sit-

"Our policy is not to negotiate or provide benefit to terrorists. We think that can send a wrong signal and that's why we're disappointed to see statements like this. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Tuesday.

Filipino officials were sensitive to the possibility of national outrage should they fail to secure freedom for dela Cruz, a 46-year-old truck driver and father of eight.

To soften the impact of the Philippine withdrawal on its international standing, the United States praised Australia for deciding to send more soldiers to Iraq and El Salvador for extending its troops' stay by a year.

Blast shakes Baghdad

Car bomb kills at least 10: GI among wounded

BY SAMEER N. YACOUB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - A suicide attacker detonated a massive car bomb Wednesday at a checkpoint near the British Embassy and headquarters of the interim Iraqi government, killing at least 10 people and wounding 40, including a U.S. soldier, authorities said.

Later Wednesday, insurgents tossed hand grenades and fired machine guns at a government convoy south of the city of Mosul on Wednesday, killing Gov. Osama Youssef Kashmoula and two of his guards, an Interior Ministry official said

The attack occurred about 60 miles south of the northern city. Iraq's third largest, as Kashmoula, governor of Nineveh province, was driving to Baghdad

Also, authorities reported Wednesday that gunmen killed an auditor for the Industry Ministry in a drive-by shooting as he was leaving his office in Baghdad

The attack on Sabir Karim occurred Tuesday, said Seif Abdel Rahman, a ministry official. Karim is the second auditor in Iraq's fledgling interim government to be targeted for assassina-

The morning suicide attack outside the main gate of the International Zone was the worst in Baghdad since the United States transferred sovereignty to the interim Iraqi government on June 28.

The explosion shook buildings throughout central Baghdad at 9:15 a.m., when a suicide bomber detonated a car packed with 1,000 pounds of explosives. Many of the civilians were waiting in line to apply for jobs, presumably with the new Iraqi government or multinational forces

The Iraqi Health Ministry said 10 were killed.

"We were thrown on the ground. Then I saw many dead people on the ground," witness Alla Hassan said.

Black and gray smoke billowed from the blast site, leaving a cra-



American and Iraqi soldiers secure the scene of a car bomb Wednesday in Baghdad. A suicide attacker detonated a massive car bomb at a checkpoint near the British Embassy, killing at least 10 people.

ter two yards wide and a yard deep in the road. The charred remains of five cars stood by a protective blast wall that had been damaged. Two other trucks and a car lay smoldering nearby.

The blast occurred on a nation al holiday marking the 46th anniversary of the bloody nationalist coup that killed Irag's last king. Faisal II.

The wounded soldier was returned to duty later in the day, according to Lt. Col. James Hutton, 1st Cavalry Division spokesman. Iraqi police and civilian ambulances responded at the scene.

Hutton said. None of the injured was treated at the U.S. military hospital in the International Zone, according to Capt. Jeffrey Greenlinger, 2nd Medical Brigade spokesman.

The International Zone was formerly known as the Green Zone, a heavily guarded compound that houses embassies and a significant number of U.S. military personnel.

U.S. soldiers cordoned off the area, Hutton said, but he did not have any information on other ways the soldiers may have assisted

Hutton could not say whether the attack was linked to the holiday or if any group had taken responsibility

Since U.S. military officials can't comment on future operations for security reasons, Hutton couldn't say whether soldiers were bracing for more attacks on Wednesday or on Saturday and July 30, which also are national holidays commemorating the Baath Party coun of 1968

"We're already very alert," Hutton said of the soldiers who conduct vehicle and foot patrols and monitor gates to U.S. military camps. "As far as being more alert [in preparation for possible increased violence on the holidays] I wouldn't speculate.

Militants in Iraq said they had killed a captive Bulgarian truck driver and threatened to put another Bulgarian hostage to death in 24 hours. Al-Jazeera television reported Wednesday.

Another group linked to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zargawi said in a video broadcast Wednesday on Al-Jazeera that it had carried out its threat to kill a Bulgarian truck driver it was holding.

Three men with their faces covered by black masks stood over a kneeling hostage, identified by reporters as Georgi Lazov, 30. The video contained the killing but it was not broadcast because it was too graphic, said Al-Jazeera Jihad spokesman Ballout. Al-Jazeera later reported the man's throat was slit

Bulgaria identified the other hostage as Ivaylo Kepov. The two were kidnapped while traveling to Mosul in northern Iraq. They were last heard from June 29.

E-mail him at: emertr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

NATO countries not much help in Afghanistan

BY GEORGE GEDDA The Associated Press

WASHINGTON -NATO took command of the international peacekeeping force in Afghanistan last summer. there were high hopes for multiple payoffs for the alliance.

An effective NATO performance could smooth over the American-European split caused by the Iraq war and perhaps more importantly, cre ate the security environ

the Afghans urgently need to Now, almost a year since NATO took on the task, there is widespread disillusionment with its performance, contrib-uting to doubts about Afghani-

stan's future stability. While accusing NATO of dithering, officials in President Bush's administration say the allies still have time to help ensure a successful Afghan presi-

dential election in October. Parliamentary elections, due to have been held simultaneously, have been put off until

John Hulsman, a European analyst at the conservative Heritage Foundation in Washington, says halfhearted allied ef forts in Afghanistan are deepening American suspicions about NATO's utility.

"Our interests are not the same. We have to stop pretend-ing that they are," he says. Officially, the alliance takes

a different view. A communi-que issued at the NATO summit in Turkey two weeks ago said, "Contributing to peace and stability in Afghanistan is

NATO's key priority. "NATO's leadership of the U.N.-mandated International Security Assistance Force demonstrates the readiness of the North Atlantic Council to decide to launch operations to en-sure our common security."

Charles Kupchan of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York says NATO's commitment in Afghanistan has yielded little thus far.

While helping to stabilize Kabul, he says, "most of rest of country is the wild, wild west, including the south and east."

Bush administration officials say such comments fail to recognize that the deployment to Afghanistan is a bold departure for an alliance that had never ventured beyond Europe's borders.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai made warlord disarmament a top priority earlier this year but has made almost no

At the Istanbul summit two weeks ago, Karzai implored the Europeans to take Afghanistan more seriously

"Please hurry," he said. "Pro-vide the Afghan men and women with a chance to vote freely without fear, without co-

NATO has agreed to branch out beyond Kabul, the capital, to the west and north of Afghanistan, setting up civilian-mili-tary teams designed to help the Karzai government extend its authority and to create a seenvironment, other goals





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U.S. return delayed for once-missing Marine

Hassoun released from hospital, but mechanical problems set back flight

mental and

physical

well-being and

allow him

to continue

to decompress.

Capt. Dan McSweenev

BY MARNI MCENTEE Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN Germanv — A U.S. Marine seen on television as being held hostage by mili-

tants in Iraq before he turned up in Lebanon has been released from a military 44 The main thing

ny. Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun spent four days at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, undergoing what military physi-cians called repatriation and debriefing.

hospital in Germa-

He was bound for Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia, where he would contin-ue the repatria-

tion process, Marine Corps spokesman Capt. Dan Mc-Sweeney said Wednesday.

"The main thing is to ensure mental and physical well-being and allow him to continue to decompress," Sweeney said.

Hassoun was scheduled to leave Ramstein Air Base on Wednesday afternoon in a C-5 Galaxy, but mechanical problems delayed the flight by at least a day, officials said

When he travels, he'll be accompanied by a Landstuhl psychologist and a Marine Corps public af-fairs officer, hospiis to ensure his tal spokeswoman

Marie Shaw said. They were to fly to Dover, Del. Depending on weather, he'll either take a flight Quantico make the roughly 135-mile trip in a van or car, said

Corps spokesman

Marine Corps spokesman Capt. Jeffrey Lan-Originally, the Corps plan to return Hassoun to his home base of Camp Lejeune,

> But Quantico puts him closer to intelligence officials, investigators and the health officials at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., officials said.



Depending on the availability of rooms, officials at Quantico want to house Hassoun in the Bachelor Officer Quarters, where there is more living space, and is closer to the main gate and facili-ties at Quantico. If there is no room, he'll be housed in the enlisted quarters, Landis said

Hassoun, 24, arrived at the Landstuhl hospital late Friday night, exhausted but in good health. He had lost 20 pounds and hadn't slept more than a few hours a night for three weeks, hospital physicians said.

The Marine disappeared June 20 from a camp near Fallujah, Iraq, where he worked as a truck driver and translator for the 2nd

Hassoun's statement

Marine Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun issued this written statement before leaving Landstuhl Regional Medical

"I am happy to have com-pleted this phase of my repa triation. The people here at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center have treated me very well, but I am excited to be going home. All thanks and praise are due to God for my safety. I'm also very thankful for all the kind wishes, support and prayers for me and my family from my fellow
Marines, all the people in the
U.S., Lebanon, and around
the world. I am in good health
and spirits. I look forward to my return home to friends and family. Semper fidelis."

Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, based at Camp Lejeune.

He was seen on Arab television June 27, blindfolded with someone holding a sword above his head. Conflicting reports of his capture and possible murder had circulated for days before Hassoun arrived July 8 in Lebanon, where his family lives. He met with U.S. Embassy officials Beirut before the military flew him to Germany.

Initially, the military listed Hassoun as a deserter but then changed that to "captured," after the videotape was aired.

McSweeney said the military's Joint Personnel Recovery Agencv. which specializes in treating people who have been held captive, recommended continuing the repatriation process. Until that is complete, no investigation into the "missing persons inqui-ry" would continue," McSweeney said. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service will pursue that inquiry, he said.

Hassoun has not yet been ques-tioned by the NCIS and will not be confined while at Quantico,

McSweeney said. Shaw, the Landstuhl spokes-woman, said the third repatriation phase is meant to continue to ease Hassoun back into normal

"I saw him this morning," Shaw said. "He was in uniform. He was smiling more than he was before. He was a lot more relaxed because he had slept and eaten well."

Stripes reporter Sandra Jontz contribut-ed to this report from the Pentagon. E-mail Marni McEntee at: mcenteem@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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IN THE STATES

Amendment banning gay marriage fails

Senate supporters vow to continue fight

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Senate dealt an election-year defeat Wednesday to a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, rejecting pleas from President Bush and fellow conservatives that the measure was needed to safeguard an institution that has flourished for thousands of years

The vote was 48-50, 12 short of the 60 needed to keep the measure alive. Six Republicans joined dozens of Democrats in sealing the amendment's fate

"I would argue that the future of our country hangs in the balance because the future of marriage hangs in the balance, said Sen. Rick Santorum, a leader in the fight to approve the measure.

"Isn't that the ultimate homeland security, standing up and defending marriage? But Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle said there was no "urgent need" to amend the Constitution. "Marriage is a sacred union between men and women. That is what the vast majority of Ameri-cans believe. It's what virtually all South

Dakotans believe. It's what I believe "In South Dakota, we've never had a single same-sex marriage and we won't have any," he said. "It's prohibited by South Da kota law as it is now in 38 other states. There is no confusion. There is no ambigu-

Supporters conceded in advance they would fail to win the support needed to advance the measure, and vowed to renew their efforts.

"I don't think it's going away after this vote," Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said Tues-day on the eve of the test vote. "I think the issue will remain alive," he added. Whatever its future in Congress, there

also were signs that supporters of the amendment intended to use it in the cam-

paign already unfolding. "The institution of marriage is under fire from extremist groups in Washington, poli ticians, even judges who have made it clear that they are willing to run over any state law defining marriage," Republican senatorial candidate John Thune says in a radio commercial airing in South Dakota "They have done it in Massachusetts and they can do it here," adds Thune, who is challenging Daschle for his seat.

"Thune's ad suggests that some are using this amendment more to protect the Republican majority than to protect marriage," said Dan Pfeiffer, a spokesman for Daschle's campaign



Sen. Rick Santorum. R-Pa., left, watches as singer Pat Boone speaks in support of the amendment to ban gay marriage during a news conference Tuesday in Washington.

At issue was an amendment providing that marriage within the United States shall consist only of a man and a woman.

A second sentence said that neither the federal nor any state constitution "shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman." Some critics argue that the effect of that provision would be to ban civil unions, and its inclusion in the amendment complicated efforts by GOP leaders to gain support from wavering Republicans.

Bush urged the Republican-controlled Congress last February to approve a constitutional amendment, saving it was needed to stop judges from changing the definition of the "most enduring human institution."

Bush's fall rival, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, opposes the amendment, as does his vice presidential running mate, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina. Both men skipped the vote

In all, 45 Republicans and three Democrats voted to keep the measure alive. Six Republicans joined 43 Democrats and one independent in opposition.

The odds have never favored passage in the current Congress, in part because many Democrats oppose it, but also because numerous conservatives are hesitant to overrule state prerogatives on the issue.

At the same time, Republican strategists contend the issue could present a difficult political choice to Democrats, who could be pulled in one direction by polls showing that a majority of voters oppose gay mar-riage, and pulled in the other by homosexual voters and social liberals who support it. An Associated Press-Ipsos poll taken in March showed about four in 10 support a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, and half oppose it.

Illinois GOP asks Ditka to be Senate candidate

CHICAGO - In a "Hail Mary" pass by the state GOP, the party chairwoman met with former Chicago Bears coach Mike Ditka about a possible run for the U.S Senate.

Illinois Republicans are scrambling to find a replacement candidate with less than four months left until the November election. Jack Ryan dropped out nearly

three weeks ago over embarrass ing allegations in his divorce naners that he took his wife. "Boston Public" actress Jeri Ryan, to sex clubs before they split up. The party's top choices have re-

A number of Republican lead-

ers in both Illinois and Washing ton said Tuesday that Ditka's name recognition, regular-guy appeal and analytical game-planning skills would make him a viable candidate to challenge state Sen. Barack Obama.

"The public is really tired of the slick politicians, they're tired of sound bites, they're tired of trial lawyers running government. To have a decent, ordinary guy, a regular guy, run, I think is something that the public would overwhelmingly embrace," said state Sen. Dave Syverson, a member of the Republican State Central Committee.

Ditka, 64, said he had not decided on a run after meeting Tues-



day night with Illinois Republican Party chairwoman and state treasurer Judy Baar Topinka at his Chicago restaurant

He said it is an exciting idea but he has not made up his mind.

poison antidotes CDC preps for chemical attacks

States receiving

The ability to

survive a

depends on

immediate

decontamination

and rapid

administration

of appropriate

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - States are beginning to receive long-awaited shipments of antidotes against chemical weapons, under a program that aims to have stocks in every state within two years

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began quietly shipping the so-called chem

packs four months ago. New York City and Boston, sites of the upcoming national politiconventions were among the

early recipients. The program provides "a quick way for hospitals to know they'll have the antidotes have the antidotes they need," said Donna Knutson, CDC's deputy di-rector of terrorism

preparedness It was prompted in part because

antidotes. there has been "an uneven level of protection across the country," added Steve Adams, deputy director of the Strategic National Stockpile Pro-

Much of the nation's ongoing efforts to prepare for terrorism have focused on biological attacks. For example, the National

Pharmaceutical Stockpile contains tons of drugs, vaccines and other medical supplies in storage around the country, so that any U.S. city can receive a needed

shipment within 12 hours. That may be enough time to react to an incubating infection like anthrax, but the ability to survive a chemical attack depends on immediate decontamination and rapid administration of appro-

priate antidotes. Yet those antidotes are expensive and hav short shelf-lives. have chemical attack The CDC began

shipping chem-packs four months ago. packs The

come with a variety of chemical an-tidotes, such as atropine to fight nerve agents Some are in autoinjectors for at-tack-site use; others are packaged emergen-

cy-room use For security reasons, CDC officials wouldn't say which states had received chem-packs so far.

The CDC invested \$56 million last year in creating the chempacks, and has budgeted about \$34 million this year as the distribution begins, officials said.

Ashcroft details Patriot Act's role in terror war

WASHINGTON - The Justice Department on Tuesday gave Congress nearly three dozen examples of how the Patriot Act has been used to prosecute terrorists and other criminals, part of an administration effort to counter criticism that the law does more to harm civil liberties than to protect the nation. Attorney General John Ashcroft presented a

29-page report outlining the examples to members of the House Judiciary Committee, telling reporters after the private briefing that the report provided "a mountain of evidence" of the law's benefits.

"The Patriot Act is al-Oaida's worst nightmare when it comes to disrupting and disabling their oper-ations here in America," he said. Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, ranking Demo-

crat on the Judiciary Committee, accused the department of selectively releasing information and refusing to address civil liberties concerns.

The report says between the Sent 11 2001 attacks and May 5, Justice Department terrorism investigations led to charges against 310 people, of whom 179 were convicted or pleaded guilty. The Patriot Act, it says, was instrumental in many of these cases

The report provides 35 examples of how the law was used to prosecute alleged terror cells in New York, Oregon, Virginia and elsewhere: how it undated law enforcement tools to track such technology as cell phones and Internet communications; and how many of its provisions are used for other criminal probes including child pornography, computer king, kidnapping and illegal weapons sales

Anthony Romero, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said he considered the report a political document rather than a serious examination of the Patriot Act's impact. The Bush adminis-tration, he said, should "spend less time waging public relations campaigns and more time responding to the specific, legitimate concerns of the American people."

Voting machine critics seeking paper trail

BY TOM STUCKEY The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. - A coalition of activists around the nation held rallies in state capitals to publicize their fears about paperless voting systems.

In Maryland, more than 100 activists demonstrated Tuesday outside the State House demanding that voting machines be equipped with printers before the November election.

Participants in the "Computer Ate My Vote" campaign said paperless voting systems are poorly programmed and prone to hackers fraud and software bugs

campaign, said rallies were held in 19

"We want a paper trail now, this November." Linda Schade, of TrueVoteMD.org, said at the Annapolis rally.

Donna Duncan, manager of the election management division for the State Election Board, said the machines used in Maryland have undergone more security testing than any other election system in

the country In Tallahassee, Fla., about 20 activists rallied outside the state Capitol and delivered about 20,000 petitions to the Division of Elections

Tom Baxter, one of the rally organizers, "If you want to have something you can count, you need paper."

Florida officials officials insist touchscreens are far more accurate than older voting systems - such as the state's retired and much-maligned punch card sys-

In Utah, about 50 people gathered on the steps of the Utah Capitol to ask the Voting Equipment Selection Committee to expand its search for balloting options

A federal law enacted after the 2000 Florida election fiasco provides billions of dollars in funding for electronic machines.

Utah is among a handful of states that still use a mostly punch card-based sys-

Barbara Simmons, a former president of the Association for Computing Machinery, told protesters that officials should hold off

on electronic balloting until more accurate machines are available. machines are available.

"If I had a single message ... that message would be 'Wait,' " she said. "There's better technology on the way."

"We are unified in our desire to protect

and defend our voting system," Madeleine Hervey, of Common Cause of Texas, said at a rally in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press writers Travis Reed in Salt Lake City and David Royse Tallahassee, Fla., and Jim Vertuno in Austin, Texas, contributed to this report

Bread booms for some as low-carb customers turning to whole grains

BY TIM MCCAHILL The Associated Press

DUXBURY, Vt. - Randy George has a phrase to describe the bread he bakes: "enjoyable carbohydrates."

"The food is good - I really do believe that," said George, his work clothes covered with a thin dusting of flour. "We do all need a certain amount of carbs

George's company, Red Hen Baking, makes "artisan breads," hearty, crusty loaves baked with out additives or preservatives. And in this era of all things low-carb George and other artisan bakers say business is prospering as customers shun refined breads for the local ingredients used in their handmade varieties

"They've taken the time to educate customers on what it is they are actually buying when they're buying artisan products," said Gina Piccolino, executive director of the Bread Bakers Guild of America. "Be educated - don't just get caught up in a fad diet."

Piccolino backed up her claim with a recent survey of the guild, which boasts 1.300 members from home bakers to suppliers.

The guild surveyed its 260 artisan bakeries last year, and 78 percent of the 202 who responded said sales remained level or

organic, whole-grain flour and grew from 2002 to 2003. In the same poll. 92 percent said sales of partial or fully whole-grain breads and pastries stayed the same or grew during the same

period. The numbers reveal buyers preference breads crafted by the hand of the baker, not the machine, Pic-

colino said. "Multigrain, whole-grain, whole-wheat kinds of products

are good for you," she said.
"The product is so different than what used to be available, said Chuck Conway, 54, owner of bakery O'Bread, referring to the refined breads that once dominated the supermarket aisle. "People try it and like it."

Escaped tiger killed by Florida wildlife officers

The Associated Press

LOXAHATCHEE Fla . owner of an escaped tiger fatally shot by wildlife officers said Wednesday that he believes someone opened several gates, en-

abling the big cat to get out. Steve Sipek, an actor who once played Tarzan, said the gates would have had to be opened be-

fore the 6-year-old tiger, named Bobo, could have reached the 12-foot wall around his property. 'He was let out by somebody

who is interested in causing pr lems," Sipek told CBS' "The Early Show." Sipek has another tiger, a panther, a cougar and lions on his five-acre compound. which is marked by a sign that reads, "Trespassers will be eaten." They did not escape.

Willie Puz, a spokesman for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, said Wednes day that Sipek's claim was being investigated. He said Sinek has li censes for the big cats, but he said he could not comment on whether they could now be revoked because that is part of the investiga-

Bobo was shot and killed Tuesday when officials say it lunged at a wildlife officer who was trying to capture it.

But Sipek, who developed a soft spot for jungle beasts after playing Tarzan in B-movies decades ago, said he doubted the tiger had to be killed. He said he would have been able to coax the tiger to safety if officers had called him to the scene before shooting it.

"Murder is the word," Sipek said. "They murdered a poor help-less animal that only looked ferocious, as any tiger would, but Bobo had a heart of gold."

A dozen wildlife trackers and sheriff's deputies had searched more than 24 hours for the animal, which escaped Monday. They had kept watch Tuesday in a five-acre area of dense slash pines and palm trees.

Officers approached the tiger intending to shoot it with tranquilizers. But the tiger jumped at one officer, who fired a shotgun in self-defense, said Jorge Pino, a

wildlife commission spokesman.

"Needless to say, the owner is very distraught. We're distraught," Pino said. "Our concern was to recover this tiger alive and



Bobo the tiger in an undated photo. The 6-year-old tiger, owned by Steve Sipek, escaped from Sipek's compound Monday in Loxahatchee, Fla. Wildlife officers caught up with Bobo on Tuesday, killing the tiger when it reportedly lunged at an officer.

He told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Wednesday that wildlife officials had told him they wouldn't try to capture Bobo until later Tuesday evening, so he went to take a shower. He said he was coming back to rejoin the search when he heard five shots and "my heart sank."

Some nearby residents, who moved to the rural area so they could have room for their own pets, had little sympathy for Sipek, saying his big cats are dan-

What I want to know is when he was in captivity, how long did he go without a feeding?" said Kim Smith, who has horses and dogs that she normally keeps out-

"Tigers are predatorial. All of us moved out here because we're city people wanting a taste of the country. But this is a little funky." Wildlife officials had said they

did not believe the declawed pet would attack. He was never taught to hunt, and had never killed anything or lived in the wild. However, he did bite a woman working inside his cage two years ago, severely injuring



IN THE WORLD

U.S.: Extra AIDS funding is 'not going to happen'

BY VIJAY JOSHI
The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — The United States on Wednesday rejected a call at the International AIDS Conference for a \$1 billion contribution next year to the global fund that has become the centerpiece of U.N. efforts against the disease.

"It's not going to happen," U.S. AIDS coordinator Randall Tobias said in an interview, noting that Washington already is by far the world's largest donor to the cause.

Tobias' comments were in response to a request Tuesday by U.N. Secretary-General Koff Annan, who said he hoped the United States would give \$1 billion for 2005 alone to the Global Fund, which is far short of its \$3.6 billion budget.

billion budget.

The United States is carrying out a \$15 billion, five-year Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, mainly directed toward 14 countries in Africa and the Caribbean, plus Vietnam. Critics say the United States should instead give much of that money to the Global Fund, which reaches 128 countries.

which reaches 128 countries.

They also say the U.S. money comes with strings attached that can set back efforts to curb the spread of HIV — which infected 5 million people last year alone—and that the U.N.-sponsored fund best suits the needs of sufferers.

The U.S. money goes to countries that support Bush's abstinence-first policy, and it currently can buy only brand-name drugs, usually American, shutting out cheaper generic versions made by developing countries.

Tobias urged detractors to stop arguing with Washington over condoms and drug patents and join its war on the pandemic, which has claimed 20 million lives and left another 38 million infected worldwide since 1986, most of them in Africa.

There has been furious criticism at the AIDS conference of U.S. policies such as its insistence on abstinence — rather than condoms — as a primary way of batting HIV; its trade policies; and its funding methods. The conference is the biggest gathering ever of AIDS scientists, activists, policy-makers and HIV-infected peo-

Critics say a vow of abstinence is difficult to maintain and, when broken, can lead to unprotected sex, raising the risk of HIV infection that could effectively be blocked by a condom.

Tobias was jeered by protesters

chanting, "He's lying! People dying!" when he was about to defend U.S. policies in a speech Wednesday.

Stephen Lewis, the United Nations' special envoy on HIV/AIDS to Africa, said he disagreed "profoundly" and that the Tobias stance showed "an inability to recognize the way the world most effectively works."

Protection for women one key to halting HIV

BANGKOK, Thailand— The global fight against HIV will fail without serious progress in addressing the plight of women in the developing world, including ways they can protect themselves from infection without their partners knowing, advocates say

Nearly half of all people living with HIV now are women, and their infection rates in many regions are climbing much faster than men's, experts say.

Health specialists, scientists and community activists at the international AIDS conference focused their attention Wednesday on the impact that humankind's worst scourge is having on women. Across the world, 17 million women are infected.

With vaccines considered a long way off and with many cultures denying women the power and confidence to demand that partners wear condoms — regarded as the key prevention tool — scientists are addressing ways women can protect themselves.

The biggest buzz among researchers at the conference is surrounding anti-AIDS vaginal products, known as microbicides.

The concept dates from the late 1980s, but is being pushed seriously only now, with the official AIDS conference agenda featuring a session on microbicides for the first time.

Scientists hope that within five years, the first batch of broad-spectrum, HIV-killing vaginal products could be available.

be available.
While they are no substitute for condoms, they could profoundly affect how well the world's most vulnerable women can fight HIV even if the products turn out to be no more than 30 percent effective, said Dr. Zeda Rosenberg, chief executive of International Partnership for Microbicides.

- The Associated Press



YODO NEWS/AP

Rescuers continue operations through a flooded street in Sanjo, northwestern Japan, on Wednesday. Heavy rains and flooding in northwestern Japan killed at least six people and prompted evacuations.

At least 6 dead in Japan floods

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Torrential rains and flooding in northern Japan killed at least six people, injured several more and forced nearly 20,000 others to evacuate to higher ground, officials said Wednesday. Four people were missing.

At the epicenter of the flooding, in Tochio, 135 miles northwest of Tokyo, 17 inches of rain had fallen in two days.

Authorities broadened an evacuation order to 19,788 households late Wednesday, mostly in the city of Sanjo, north of Tochio.

Some 22,300 homes had been flooded, including 14,760 in Sanjo, where the fast-flowing waters of the Ikarashi River broke through a stone-and-dirt embankment in several areas. Dozens of schools were closed

The Self-Defense Forces dis-

patched 300 troops to help with rescue and cleanup, while military helicopters airlifted about 451 people from the rooftops of homes and schools, public broadcaster NHK reported.

More than 4,000 homes were still without power as of late Wednesday, and many were without telephone service after underground connections were severed, said Tohoku Electric Power Co. spokesman Junji Ishiguro. Officials said an estimate of the

Officials said an estimate of the flooding damage hadn't been tallied yet.

While rain had let up in some places, more was forecast for Thursday. The dead included four women in their 70s, a man in his 70s and

one in his 80s, Fire and Disaster Management Agency spokesman Koki Sasaki said. Sasaki said four others were

Sasaki said four others wer missing.

Iraq probe finds Blair did not lie

BY JILL LAWLESS

LONDON — British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday escaped the worst from an official inquiry into prewar intelligence on Irraq, which criticized his government for informal decision-making and pushing available intelligence to the limit — but found no deliberate distortions by intelligence agencies or officials eager to justify war plans.

The commission headed by Lord Butler found prewar Iraq had no usable stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and that British intelligence was aflawed, unreliable and incomplete. But while criticizing Blair's "informal" governing style, it absolved him of misleading the public over Iraq, a charge that has dogged him since he took Britain into the divisive U.S.-led war.

Blair said it proved that "no one lied, no one made up the intelli-

gence."
The verdict takes some pressure off Blair, whose popularity and credibility have been battered by the war and continuing violence in Iraq, and by the failure to find any weapons of mass destruction. His Labor Party fared poorly in recent local and European parliamentary elections, and there have been rumblings within the party calling for his ouster.

Blair's fate has wider symbolic and political ramifications months after a pro-war government was voted out in Spain, and with President Bush — Blair's chief ally — facing a difficult

re-electión campaign.

"We have no reason, found no
evidence, to question the prime
minister's good faith," said Butler,
a retired senior civil servant. Butler concluded "no single individual" was responsible for intelligence failures that led Bair's government to overstate the threat
posed by Saddam.

The report concluded that Saddam "did not have significant — if any — stocks of chemical or biological weapons in a state fit for deployment, or developed plans for using them."

The five-member committee, which interviewed Blair, senior Cabinet figures and key intelligence officials, said no individual was to blame for the chasm between that conclusion and claims made before the war — including one that Iraq could deploy some chemical and biological weapons on 45 minutes, notices

Israeli plan rejects Arafat burial in Jerusalem

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — After Yasser Arafat's death, Israel must er sure he is not buried in Jerusalem and take harsh measures to prevent militants from seizing control in the Palestinian territories, according to a new contingency plan obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press.

The document lays out Israel's best predictions about the conse-

quences that may follow the death of the 75-year-old Palestinian leader.

Arafat, who has suffered from health problems in recent years, wields enormous power and has asid little about who might succeed him — or where he should be buried.

The contingency plan forecasts chaos in the Palestinian territories. It says Arafat's Palestinian Authority will collapse and Islamrise up out of the refugee camps where they have strong support and try to take control of the Palestinian government.

Israel must take extreme measures to prevent this scenario, including a broad military operation in the Gaza Strip, according to the document.

The document, prepared by the Foreign Ministry, is part of regular planning for Arafat's death.

Koizumi says Jenkins should come to Japan 'as soon as possible'

By Kozo Mizoguchi

The Associated Press

TOKYO - Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Wednesday that he wants to bring an accused U.S. Army deserter to Japan for medical treatment "as soon as possible" and will continue to press the United States not to prosecute

the former American soldier. The Japanese government has been waiting for the results of medical tests on Charles Jenkins



lived North Korea since allegedly abandoning his Army unit in 1965 — is in Jakarta

for a reunion with his Japanese wife, Hitomi Soga,

Koizumi said doctors who examined Jenkins had recommend-ed that the 64-year-old American receive treatment in Japan soon.
"It would be best for him to

come to Japan as soon as possi-Koizumi told reporters Wednesday

But

suading

Japanese leader knowledged the difficul-ties of per-Washington, Tokyo's closest ally, not Jenkins with desertion. Because of a bi-

lateral nact be hard pressed to resist a U.S. request for custody of Jenkins once he is in Japan.

"We have to find a solution that



nese iournalists wait in the hotel lobby Tuesday where alleged U.S. Army deserter Charles Robert Jenkins and his family are

staying in Jakarta, Indonesia. will satisfy both countries," Koi-

The Japanese media have speculated that Jenkins could come to Japan as soon as next week. Japan as soon as next week. Kyodo News service, citing uni-dentified Japanese officials, re-ported Wednesday that Jenkins is now willing to travel to Japan, despite fears that the United States will seek his extradition.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hi-oyuki Hosoda said earlier royuki Hosoda said earlier Wednesday that Tokyo hadn't yet made any formal requests to Washington.

Japan court backs school board, tells teachers to sing

BY BRUCE WALLACE

Los Angeles Times

TOKYO - Soft-spoken high school teacher Hiroshi Saito says his refusal to stand and sing Japan's national anthem at this spring's graduation ceremonies was intended as "a final lesson" to his departing students, "an un-spoken message that the freedom of speech is constitutionally guaranteed." But other eyes were on him while he sat out the song

Saito's convictions collided with a new Tokyo school board directive requiring teachers to set an example to students by leading the singing of Kimigayo, the anthem or face punishment. And the board sent officials into schools to monitor who among the teachers

was singing and who was not. By the end of June, more than 200 teachers — 35-year-old Saito among them — had been reprimanded for failing to join in the five-line, two-verse anthem. Many saw scheduled pay raises postponed for three months.

Last week, the teachers were dealt another blow when a Tokyo High Court ruled that the city's school board had the right to discipline teachers who refused to comply with the directive. To many Japanese, this is the same sort of coerced patriotism that herded a previous generation into war and disaster.

There is some indication the public sides with the teachers on at least their right to choose whether to join in singing or stay seated.

A poll done for a Tokyo newspaper and released Thursday found more than 70 percent of respondents were opposed to the school board's directive. Among people under 30, barely 10 percent agreed with the board's policy.

But lawyers for the teachers acknowledge the High Court ruling might throw a legal damper on their best chance to overturn the directive. Two other lawsuits are before the courts, including a class-action suit filed last month by 350 Tokyo teachers, which ac cuses the board of denying constitutionally guaranteed rights to freedom of speech, conscience and religion

The confrontation between teachers and administrators is in part a front in the perennial struggle over who runs the schools Teachers don't like to be ordered by the authorities," said Hiroshi Oyama, lead lawyer in the class action suit.



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Arab news station issues code of ethics

DOHA, Qatar — The popular Arab news channel Al-Jazeera, which the United States has accused of bias, has issued a code of ethics, vowing to "uphold journal-istic values" and to be sensitive to the victims of the wars and disasters it covers.

The code, issued in a statement at the end of a two-day interna tional media forum that concluded Tuesday, said the station will "strive to reach and deliver the

truth, respect our audience. Al-Jazeera often has been criticized for its coverage of the war on Iraq, especially by the United

The statement pledged to "take into account the feelings of the victims of crime, wars, oppres-sion and disasters, and the feelings of their families and the view-

Al-Jazeera also has been accused of being an outlet for al-Qaida terror network, broadcasting videotapes and audio-tapes purportedly from Osama bin Laden or his aides.

The station said it will distin guish between news, analysis and commentary to avoid "falling in the trap of propaganda and speculation."

It also promised to "acknowl-

edge any mistake as soon as it is made and take the initiative to correct it and avoid repeating it."
Recently, Al-Jazeera has begun

reading statements from militant groups instead of broadcasting their tapes, an attempt to limit rhetoric. It also has been editing out particularly graphic seg-ments of militant videotapes.

'Merlin' in court for shopping with sword

PORTSMOUTH, England — Merlin appeared in court Tuesday, resplendent in his druid robes and defended by King Arthur Pendragon, but without the meter-long (3-foot) sword that caused alarm in a local shop

Merlin Michael Williams, 26, of Westbourne, England, was arrested last week after carrying his spell-casting weapon while shopping at a store in Portsmouth. The sword was confiscated as evidence. Williams presented himself at Portsmouth Magistrates draped in

a green robe and blue cloak The case was adjourned for a month to give prosecutor Colin Shackel time to examine precedents.

"It is accepted by the crown this was sheathed and there was no offensive action by the defendant," Shackel said. "The issue is whether this is an offensive weapon per se."
Williams remained free on boil Williams remained free on bai

From wire reports

Honesty is the true test of a reliable mechanic

Click and Clack

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

Dear Tom and Ray:

About two months ago, the Toyota dealer left a clamp off my radiator hose after servicing my car. After almost making it home (about 22 miles), the car began to steam. This was my first hint that the car was overheating. I pulled off the road and called for a tow truck. After examining the car, the dealer assured me that there was no damage, and provided a letter admitting responsibility. The engine seems to run louder than before; otherwise, I have not noticed a difference.

How do I know if any damage was really done? - Jennifer TOM: It's sad, isn't it, that no-

body believes car dealers? The dealer says it's fine, and her first question is, "How do I know if he's lying?"

RAY: Well, it's hard to know who to believe in this case, since the dealer has a vested interest in the out-

TOM: Oh, I'm not saying it's an inappropriate reaction. I'd do the same thing! I'm just saying it's sad. It's sad, that's all.

RAY: Well, sad as it might be, Jennifer, we have to give your dealer credit for admitting the mistake and even putting that in writing. That's a "stand-up" thing to do, and it gives him credibility, in my mind. It suggests to me that he's not trying to hide anything.

TOM: So, let's look at what might have happened, Jennifer. If the clamp was for one of the top radiator hoses, a small leak there could produce a lot of steam. Since the "hot engine" light on your dashboard didn't come on, it's entirely possible that all you lost was a small amount of coolant (as steam) and that the engine never even overheated. That would be the best-case scenario, and it's the one your dealer is describing.

RAY: On the other hand, if you just didn't notice

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49.80 34.16 1.86 24.00

222992

Tuesday's Market Summary

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)

35.55 111.86 34.68 10.42 102.55 +.01 +.08 +.01 +.21 -.01

90.56 112.15 2.94 28.15 71.40

Chg

that the overheating light was on, and you truly did lose much or all of your coolant through a lower hose, then you could have done some real damage.

TOM: How do you know? Well, the best way to ease your mind is to take it to another shop you trust, and ask the mechanics there to do two tests for you. One is a cylinder-head test, where they'll check to see if the head or head gasket has cracks in it. If an engine gets too hot - especially if it repeatedly overheats and then cools down — it can blow a head

gasket, or even crack a head. Those are both expensive re-

RAV: The other test is an oil-pressure test. If an engine overheats badly enough, the main bearings and con-

necting-rod bearings can begin to melt and deform, and that would make it impossible to maintain proper oil pressure. That's a very serious problem, and it requires a new or rebuilt engine.

TOM: Incidentally, bad bearings could explain a loud engine, Jennifer. But don't be alarmed. It also could be your imagination. For instance, after I dropped my infant son on his head by accident years ago, my wife kept imagining that he wasn't the same. But he turned out fine. In fact, he's just like

RAY: Not very reassuring. Anyway, Jennifer, these two tests will tell all. If your engine is damaged (and I'm betting it's not), your dealer has taken responsibility and presumably will fix what needs to be fixed, at his expense.

TOM: And if your car checks out, I wouldn't hesitate to go back to this dealer. Every mechanic makes mistakes. It's whether you own up to them and take responsibility for them that makes you trustworthy or not. And this guy passed the test.

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Canada (Dollar)1.31	6
Denmark (Krone)6.01	ã
Egypt (Pound)6.23	ñ
Furo \$1.23	2
Hong Kong (Dollar)7.79	ã
Hungary (Forint) 202	4
Iceland (Krona)71.3	2
Israel (Shekel)4.47	6
Japan (Yen)108.	8
Kuwait (Dinar)0.29	ú
Norway (Krone)6.85	á
Philippines (Peso)55.	7
Saudi Arabia (Rival)	
Singapore (Dollar)1.70	2
Switzerland (Franc)1.23	
Thailand (Baht)40.	6
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PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

Portable PCs gaining ground

BY STEVE ALEXANDER Minneapolis-St. Paul

While shopping for a new per sonal computer recently, Paul Wegerson, 22, was certain of only one thing: He didn't want a desktop.

"I have a desktop now. But more and more, notebook computers are becoming as power-ful as desktops — and they're portable," said Wegerson.

Scanning the laptop comput-ers at a Best Buy store, he added, "I want to be able to use my PC when I'm in a coffee

shop, on a plane or outside."

Wegerson isn't the only one who wants portability. Laptops don't yet rule consumer comput-ing, but in the United States re gaining on the venerable desktop. Despite costing more than desktops, laptops are selling based on the dual convenience of portability and built-in Wi-F (a wireless networking standard) for Internet access, plus the laptop performance gains that have made them nearly the computing equals of desktops. Laptops are changing the way

people work and spend their lei

Demand for more powerful laptops could force manufacturers to change how the machines are designed

"Four or five years ago, lap-tops were not powerful enough to do most of what you did on desktops, but today they are,' said Howard Locker, chief ar chitect for IBM's personal com puting division in Raleigh, N.C "Desktops are still more power ful overall, but most people don't need that much power un-less they're playing 3-D games or creating animations.

Most laptop buyers are "pur chasing their second or third computers. They've had a deskton PC, and they want to take computing to the next level," said Matt Sargent, director of re-search at the Current Analysis consulting firm in Sterling, Va

That next level is lifestyle flex-ibility, Locker said. "You can work on your laptop and still spend time with the family in-stead of being restricted to the computer room of the house. Or you can go to Starbucks or Bar-nes & Noble and work and have wireless Internet access

While laptops still cost significantly more than desktops, their average retail purchase price has dropped 9 percent over the past three years. Lap-tops cost an average of \$1,352 in the period from June 2003 to May 2004, said the NPD Group of Port Washington, N.Y. What's more, retailers periodi-

cally offer promotions in which low-end laptops cost \$850 or less after rebates. By comparison, the average selling price of a desktop was \$735 in the 12-month period ending in May, NPD said.

"The price of a laptop is worth it," said Matthew Kendrick, a 24-year-old home siding installer who was recently azing at a \$1,000 Compaq lap-

top in a CompUSA store.

Reminded that he could buy some desktop PC models for nder \$400 after rebates, Kendrick was unmoved.

"I travel often, and I want to be able to take my computer to a library or a coffee shop.

In the business world, it's much the same story. An increasing number of workers are being given lantons that can runction as either a desktop or a portable PC. In the office, the laptops plug into "docking sta-tions" that connect them to standard-sized monitors and keyboards. When unplugged from the docking stations, the laptops can be used for business travel.

"The reason why a lot of cor-porations have switched from desktop PCs to laptops is that they like being able to turn their people into 24-hour workers," Locker said. "With laptops, employees can work at home at night and on weekends, which creates big productivity gains

ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Disputing credit-card fees

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK - When you notice on your financial statements that your bank has charged you a substantial overdraft charge or that your credit-card company hasn't held up on its offer of a low interest rate on balance transfers, it's easy to impulsively call up the company to complain

But one of the keys to getting what you want is being prepared before you pick up the phone says Scott Bilker, author of "Talk Your Way Out of Credit Card Debt." Bilker recommends: Get notepad and a pen or pencil. Taking notes helps you make a raking notes nelps you make a record of who you talked to, when you called and what representatives offered. Keep the record in case the company doesn't do what it promised. Bilker says if you have the phone capabilities to do so, you should also tape-record your call.

To prepare yourself mentally, remember that the bank or credit-card company needs your business to stay in business.



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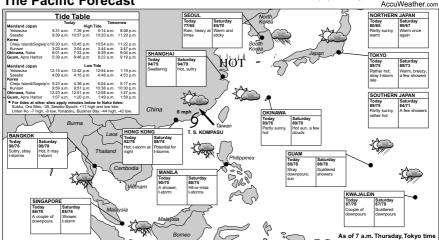
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The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

CITY Bangkok Beijing Camp Cases Christchurch Diego Garcia Hagatna Hann Hong Kong

Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 83, low 74. Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 84, low 76.

KADENA

Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 89, low 78. Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 89, low 78.

SEOUL

Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine,high 87, low 67. Monday: Showers, high 85 low 71

MANILA Sunday: Showers,

high 88, low 75. Monday: Thunderstorms, high 90, low 75.

Sunday: Showers, high 88, low 76.

Monday: Showers, high 88, low 76,

HAGATNA

Wednesday's USA Temperatures

**Cuiicsu	uy 5 OC	A icinper	utuics
CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	93/71	Los Angeles	91/64
Amarillo	100/68	Little Rock	99/75
Anchorage	75/56	Louisville	89/66
Asheville	83/61	Miami	93/78
Baltimore	88/68	Milwaukee	76/61
Birmingham	99/74	Nashville	94/67
Bismarck	86/61	New York	79/68
Boise	99/67	Omaha	84/65
Boston	68/64	Orlando	95/74
Brownsville	95/74	Philadelphia	82/68
Buffalo	75/60	Phoenix	104/84
Burlington	79/63	Pittsburgh	78/60
Charleston, SC		Portland, OR	87/61
Charlotte	95/68	Portland, ME	67/60
Cleveland	76/61	Salt Lake City	
Columbus, OH		St. Louis	87/67
Duluth	79/57	San Antonio	95/72
El Paso	95/74	San Diego	79/67
Hartford	77/64	San Juan	89/76
Helena	98/61	Tampa	90/78
Indianapolis	81/61	Tulsa	100/76
Jacksonville	95/76	Washington	89/70
Kansas City	87/68	Wichita	100/71



U.S. Extended Forecast

A cold front will spark showers and thunderstorms Friday across the Gulf Coast states, including much of the Florida Peninsula, Showers will continue to wet a large part of New England. Showers and thunderstorms will also occur in the Great Lakes and Midwest. The southern Plains will continue to bake under intense sunshine. Thunderstorms will erupt over the Rockies and Southwest, especially in the afternoon. Over the weekend, a trough of low pressure will gradually move into the Pacific Northwest and bring plenty of clouds and some rain along with it. Although New England will have more showers, the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes should dry out. Thunderstorms will be common along the Gulf Coast.

Friday's Pacific Temperatures

Frid	Friday's Pacific Temperatures					Friday's World Temperatures						
90/78 92/78 75/66 46/31 82/75 88/78 90/77 92/78 88/76	city Iwakuni Kadena AB Kunsan AB Kwajalein Manila Misawa AB Osan Perth Pusan	HIGH/LOW 87/74 89/76 78/70 87/79 90/75 83/63 77/68 63/48 81/70	Sasebo NB Sapporo Seoul Shanghai Singapore Sydney Taegu Taipei Tokyo	HIGHILOW 87/75 80/65 77/65 94/79 88/76 65/43 82/68 88/71 89/75	Acapulco Athens Auckland Baghdad Barbados Barcelona Berlin Bermuda Brussels	90/75 79/61 55/44 115/84 88/72 76/61 71/56 87/74 73/54	Budapest Buenos Aires Cairo Cancun Cape Town Geneva Istanbul Jerusalem Johannesburg	76/56 52/30 98/64 84/72 68/46 80/61 72/54 90/66 63/40	CITY Kabul Kiev Kuwait London Madrid Mexico City Montreal Mogadishu Moscow	89/54 65/50 113/81 67/49 95/68 72/54 74/63 80/69 72/49	Nairobi New Delhi Oslo Paris Rio de Janeir Rome St. Petersburg Stockholm Warsaw	82/61



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STARS STRIPES. LETTERS TO THE EDITOR/OPINION

Don't attack the system

In his July 12 letter "Bush's acts can't be forgiven," the writer argues semantics with a 12-year-old. As maniacal as it is for an adult to undermine the opinions and questions posed by a child, it is best to check your own wording to save embarrassment.

In describing our president, the writer says that he was "unchosen for the job to begin with." Unchosen is not a word in the English language. If it were, I would supnose it to mean "of or relating to something that is at first chosen, then seized from those who chose it."

Semantics aside, the writer's reasoning is replete with misinformation, "We" did elect President Bush, if you consider "we" to include the country's Founding Fathers and past generations, who put the idea of an Electoral College into action, Popular vote did not elect Bush, granted; but under the Electoral College system, we do not elect the president and vice president through a direct, nationwide vote. The presidential election is decided by the combined results of 51 state elections (in this context, the term "state" includes the District of Columbia). Your vote helps decide which candidate receives your state's electoral votes. The founders of the nation devised the Electoral College system as part of a plan to share nower between the states and the national government.

Bush's win was not without precedent. The same occurred in the Hayes/Tilden election of 1876, and the Harrison/Cleve-

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must he signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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land election of 1888 due to the statistical disparity between vote totals in individual state elections and the national vote totals.

The "calamity" that the writer says was "thrust upon" President Bush, I am sure, was in reference to the destruction and devastation that was caused by the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. It also could be argued that the country was on the brink of "calamity" when the adulterous, disbarred and im-

peached man left office. Due to the ineptitude of President Clinton's foreign intelli-gence, Osama bin Laden was never dealt with, or even pursued, until President Bush was put into office.

I assume that [when the writer made] the allusion to the war in Iraq as "specious," "driven by personal vanity," "ham-fisted di-plomacy," "marred," and "border[ing] on folly," the report from the Senate committee concluding that the CIA had mistakenly advised President Bush of Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction had not been released. It must also be stated that George Tenet, the former director of the CIA that supplied this erroneous information, was ap-pointed to that post by Clinton.

I will not reflect on the exaggerations that I will not renect on the coaggestation.

the United States is "being turned into a police state" and that "99 percent of us" did not benefit from Bush's tax relief "for billionaires" (which, if repealed, would cause great strains on small businesses). As all presidents who are re-elected have

proved, legacies are made during the sec-ond term. Nixon had Watergate, Reagan had winning the Cold War and defeating communism, and Clinton had Monica Lewinsky's blouse and his cigar. President Bush's second term will also

provide his legacy. When Bush leaves office in 2009 he will leave behind a newly structured tax system (most likely a Europe an-styled value-added system or a flat tax), a more peaceful Middle East and a strong ally in Iraq.

Sgt. Daniel M. Golden Kunnait

Cosby does harm by blaming victims

By EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON

omedian Bill Cosby can't seem to help himself. In his latest shoot-from-the-lip outburst against blacks, he claims they ad, write or speak coherent English. Black children, he said, are "going nowhere" But he is as wrongheaded this time as he was when he made similar remarks in May

Look, we can all agree that the gap between black and white students is too wide and that black-on-black crime is unacceptable. But Cosby - a multimillionaire - is way out of line in trying to pin these tired stereotypes on all poor black youth, without any acknowledgment that many young blacks and their parents are striving to achieve, and indeed are achieving, often against terrible odds.

Recent surveys by the U.S. Department of Education found that since 1975 black enrollment and SAT scores had increased in many school districts while the dropout rate had decreased. The number of blacks receiving bachelor's and master's degrees also has markedly increased.

What's more, despite Cosby's snide comments, a 2002 survey of student attitudes by the Minority Student Achievement Network, an Illinois-based educational advocacy group, found that black students were as motivated, studied as hard and were as serious about graduating as whites.

And despite Cosby's charge that "the lower-economic people are not holding up their end," even in the poorest of poor black neighborhoods countless num of children live in nonwelfare-dependent. two-parent households in which the children do not sell drugs, join gangs, get preg-nant in their teens or mumble in unintelligible babble.

Cosby should know these things. He has spent much of his career battling the clown, coon and mammy images of blacks in Hollywood. He has written books touting the achievements of young blacks. He has given tons of money to charitable and educational causes whose goal is to pro-vide resources and create opportunities for the legions of young blacks who want to improve their lives

Though Cosby is one of the best-known blacks to fan negative racial stereotypes, he's hardly the only one. Despite much evidence to the contrary, many blacks — and that apparently includes Jesse Jackson Sr., who nodded approvingly during Cosby's latest tirade — routinely trash, de-mean and ridicule themselves. They unthinkingly spin sordid tales of ghetto carjackers, gangbangers, drive-by shooters and dope dealers that supposedly turn every black community into a war zone

Some blacks in the rap and hip-hop world are deeply complicit in fanning these stereotypes. The rap moguls have reaped kings' ransoms peddling their music-video-cartoon version of the thug life; some, like Tupac Shakur, tragically fell victim to it when the violence turned real. The rebellious young of all colors who shell out billions and buy into this lifestyle are almost totally mindless of the social complexities and artistic and intellectual richness of the black experience.

Cosby's remarks are not just offering grist for conservative talking heads; they blame the victim, giving credence to the idea that all the problems of poor blacks are self-inflicted.

Instead of blaming the victim and encouraging old stereotypes, Cosby should be directing his ire at the root causes and demanding action. ...

Cosby didn't invent the shopworn stereotype that poor blacks, and indeed the poor in general, are their own worst enemy. And few would deny that there are steps that black Americans should be taking But when he speaks, people listen. In this case, what they heard only reinforces negative beliefs about the black poor.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is a political analyst and author of "The Crisis in Black and Black." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

By GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury









OPINION

Kerry should renounce extremist support ...

John Kerry will be accepting the Democratic nomination for president of the United States, and I can almost hear him

speaking as Jav Ambrose he looks out at the expectant delegates and

tells them where he stands

"I would remind you," he may well say, "that extremism in the defense of my elec-tion is no

vice. And let me remind you also that moderation in the pursuit of defeating George W. Bush is no vir-

Those words — with a few changes - were actually spoken by Barry Goldwater when he accepted the Republican nomination in 1964 Some of his most vaciferous supporters were wacky to the point of being scary, including some members of the John Birch Society. Its founder, Robert Welch, had gone so far as to say President Dwight Eisenhower was a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy.' Reject these extremists, Goldwa-

ter was urged. But while his own conservatism consisted essentially

understanding of the threats to the individual posed by an ever-growing federal government, he treaded softly in talking about even his looniest backers, telling the GOP convention that extremism in defense of liberty was a good thing and that moderation in pursuit of justice was had

A few commentators have urged Kerry to reject the extremists now shrieking their absurdities. More should demand it, and Kerry should do what Goldwater failed to do: make clear that he wants no part of the sort of politics that feeds off paranoia and hatred while poisoning political discourse in America.

The candidate might start with Julian Bond, president of the NAACP.

Put Bond's rhetoric in an extremism race with Welch's, and it just might take victory laps. According to Bond, Bush wants to get rid of the 14th Amendment assuring equality under law. The White ouse, he has said, is in the grip of a "right-wing conspiracy." Bush and other Republicans appeal to the dark underside of American culture" and seek electoral success through policies of racial division, he keeps repeating.

Considering such talk - and, believe me, there is more and some of it nastier - it's no wonder Bush decided to avoid speaking at this

(" 'Will you walk into my parlor? said the spider to the fly. / 'It's the prettiest little parlor that ever you did spy.' ") Members of the group, who reportedly were outraged at Bush's trepidation about being eaten alive, might ask themselves whether Bond and some others are not demeaning an organization whose past accomplishments are

of historic consequence. Kerry, who did address the NAACP convention, is not going to risk alienating minority voters by taking on Bond, of course, but what about Michael Moore, another outlandish imaginer of conspiracies? The director of "Fahrenheit 9/11" as much as says in the movie that Bush started the war in Iraq because of his family's financial interests in Saudi Arabia. The thesis that the war was meant to repay the Saudis has a flaw, as others have pointed out: The Saudis were sed to the war

The movie has other flaws such as grotesque intellectual dishones in its failure to discuss Saddam Hussein's genocidal past. Some of the film editing -

ng one sentence of a Condoleezza Rice quote entirely out of context
— is equivalent to lying. No. let's state it more bluntly: It is a lie. The movie represents a low in recent American politics, and Kerry — who says he has not seen it and doesn't plan to - ought to join



those flocking to theaters, and then

Oh but let's he real I don't kid myself that Kerry will attack Moore, either, or that he will castigate the extreme bad taste of that great intellect of our times, Whoopi Goldberg, whose performance at a recent Democratic fund-raiser apparently established a new low. He sure as heck won't criticize Al Gore, who went off the deep end in a speech comparing Bush not just to Hitler (common these days) but also to Stalin. Wow.

But liberals might note that conservatives - William F. Buckley led the way - did dissociate themselves from the John Birch Society and other conspiracy-mongers, making clear that their inanities did not represent their philosophy. The way thus was further paved for a conservative ascendancy marked by the election of Ronald Reagan as president. Political courage can have its rewards.

Jay Ambrose is director of editorial policy for Scripps Howard Newspapers.

. and Bush should be realistic, not just optimistic

never dreamed that I would be feeling quite so cranky this early in the campaign season. Or that I would be driv grumpiness by the Optimism Imperative.

en from my usual sunny disposition to Have you noticed that the second most Ellen Goodman overused word in presidential politics - right after "values" - is optimism? Optimism is not

just an attitude anymore, it's an entire no litical platform. It's as both candidates were competing for Optimist in Chief. The whole began, as far as I can

tell, in February, that dourest of months, when Bush's campaign manager said: "We're moving into a phase where we will begin contrasting the president's positive, optimistic vision with the al-

Since then, Republicans have issued more warnings about pessimism than about terror ism. Bush has ritually described himself as "optimistic about America because I believe in the people of America." The Republicans have run ads — going negative on negativ-ism? — attacking Kerry as "still pessimistic, on a misery tour." Dick Cheney, a walking, talking scowl of a man, has said "it's a choice between President Bush's hope and optimism and Sen. Kerry's pessimism.

And even after Kerry walked to the sunny side of the street for his running mate, the Bush/Cheney Web site warned: "Sen. Edwards delivers his pessimism with a Southern drawl and a smile." He isn't an optimist, he just plays one on TV.

Edwards himself once delivered a speech called "In Defense of Optimism." And Kerry put out an ad, full of beaming children, say

ing: "We're a country of the future. We're a country of optimists. We're the can-do peo-

The need to be seen as the Upbeat Candidate became institutionalized after 1987, when psychologist Martin Seligman's research on campaign speeches concluded that the more optimistic candidate nearly al-

The Optimism Imperative usually cites a list of White House winners. Franklin Delano Roosevelt's theme song in the midst of the Depression was "Happy Days Are Here Again." Ronald Reagan made his sunny-ness into a slogan: "Morning Again in America." And Bill Clinton was the ever-resilient Man from Hope. On the other hand, there was Jimmy Carter "malaise.

As for Bush, who continually boosts his own optimism? One ad even says that "pessimism never created a job." (Tell that to the defense industry.) Was it the pessimist Bush who accented the bleakest flotsam and jetSaddam? Or was it the eternal optimist Bush who believed that we'd be greeted with flow-

For that matter, does the Bush view of a world divided into good and evildoers cheer you up? Or make you gloomy? Is the view that we should bring democracy to the world optimistic? Or foolhardy? By the way, the Rush team still can't decide whether it wins more points when voters are scared or hopeful. So we get alternating terrorism alerts and happy talk. Maybe this is what Oscar Wilde meant when he said, "The basis of optimism is sheer terror.

The Optimism Imperative has infected both parties, but it actually comes in two strains: the ins and the outs. The "ins" attach ontimism to the status quo and equate criticism with pessimism. The "outs" attach optimism to change.

John Kerry, who does not come across as a happy warrior, has chosen as his campaign mantra a poem written by Langston Hughes during the Depression: "Let America be America again/Let it be the dream it used to

In my book, any politician who thinks he can beat the odds and become president of the United States qualifies automatically as an optimist. With the possible exception of Ralph Nader. But I am not willing to concede that a candidate's optimism is the political trump card. Attitude is no substitute for sober judgment. A cheerleader is not always

Some of our greatest accomplishments and some of our greatest disasters were all begun with optimism. The "can-do spirit" is fine and Yankee Doodle Dandy. But a leader needs to know the difference between what we can do and what we should do, and what we'd better not do.

That would give me reason for optimism.



STARS AND S PAGE 16 J 9/3464646184

Family shooting

WA KENNEWICK -Four children who were reported missing after their grandparents were shot to death were found safe last week, but their father remained at large, authorities said.

Neighbors reported seeing James T. Moran leave the mobile home where the shootings place, police

Sgt. Randy Maynard said. Cpl. Tim Scott said the victims were the children's maternal grandparents. They were identified as Glenn

Dale Carr, 57, and his wife, Debra Jolene Carr, 50. An Amber Alert had gone out for the four children, ages 5 to 10.

Very old pottery find

VA ROANOKE - Archaeologists have uncovered pottery pieces, spear tips made of quartz and a large cooking area in an American Indian settlement dating back to the 13th century.

The dig is the latest of several that have taken place over the last few decades along the Roanoke River. A series of floods, which may have forced the group to leave, protected the artifacts and kept them from becoming mixed with the remnants of later civilizations, said Bill Stanyard, a senior archaeologist at the site

"It's unusual for it to be so well preserved," Stanyard said of the

Stanyard's team of a dozen archaeologists plan to continue exca-vating the 8,000-square-foot site for the next several weeks.

DUI cutoff lowered

DE DOVER — Gov. Ruth Ann Minner signed the state's lower blood alcohol limit into law during a ceremony at Delaware State Police Headquarters The law took effect immediately, making it illegal for anyone to drive with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 percent or more. The previous limit was .10.

Fish got the ring

MN ST. PAUL — Erik Hobbie was amazed at his own stupidity

The St. Paul native and ice fisherman had known for months how he would propose to his girlfriend. Over Thanksgiving weekend last year at his family's cabin near Ely in far northern Minnesota, he had his chance Hobbie woke up early that morn-

ing to drill holes in the ice on Burntside Lake and erect a tip-up - a spring-loaded device that indicates a fish has taken the bait.

On the end of the line he tied his grandmother's heirloom diamond

Poorly, as it turned out.

When he went to the hole with his girlfriend, Pamala Gahr, and they pulled up the line, the ring was gone. "When he got to the end, he just

looked at it in kind of horror," said Gahr. She didn't believe him until he produced the empty jewelry hov "There was nothing we could do

but laugh," Gahr said, "Then we just stood there staring at the hole for quite some time trying to figure out what to do.'

Hobbie, 44, who works as a chemical engineer in Washington, onville, Ohio.

ters of upscale housing and converted an abandoned steel mill into 123 acres of lofts, ning Aug. 1.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

D.C., popped the question on the spot anyway. Gahr, 37, a native of Champlin, said, "Yes."

Kid gets gramps medals

FORT COLLINS — A ninth-grader's history project helped her grandfather get two Silver Stars and four other World War II medals nearly 60

years after he left the Navy. Donald Galbraith, 78, received the medals in a surprise ceremony at his daughter's Fort Collins home

on July 4. Galbraith served on the USS Indiana in the South Pacific but left the service in 1946 without applying for the medals. His grand-daughter, Mariah Foster, 16, learned of the omission while documenting his life for a school

Galbraith's daughter, Carrie Mass, decided to track the medals down. It took 18 months, but she received them three weeks before Independence Day. Mass invited her father to her house for the holiday, telling him it was for a family portrait. Instead, he was greeted by friends, family members and Navy officials for the presentation.

Developer hailed

MI DETROIT — Officials hope that Wayne County's new redevelopment chief can work the same magic in Detroit that he has elsewhere. Mulugetta Birru turned Pittsburgh's slag heaps into clus-



Pow wow

Travis Lovett, of Douglasville, Ga., dances during the Great Mohican Indian Pow-Wow at the Mohican Reservation Campgrounds in Loud-

stores and offices. Birru, 57, will head the newly formed nonprofit Wayne County Economic Development Corp., begin-

Teen sentenced

FL CLEARWATER — Kyle Maskell, 18, was sentenced to 10 days in jail and two years probation for using a sling-shot to shatter office building windows some believed bore image of the Virgin Mary. Maskell began serving his sentence immediately. He also was ordered to undergo psychological evaluation and complete any recommended treatment

Flag project under way

NE ORD — Several residents are in the initial stages of raising \$32,000 to fly a really big flag. Jerry Neeman, president of the Ord Flagpole Project Commit-tee, was born on Flag Day. He hopes his committee can erect a 150-foot flag pole to be topped by a 30-by-60-foot flag by July 4, 2005.

Wolf killed

NM ALBUQUERQUE — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says a federal sharpshooter has killed an endangered Mexican gray wolf that was preying on cattle on an Indian reservation in Ari-

Trappers had been trying to capture the wolf, a member of the Saddle Pack, since March but the rough terrain and the wolf's erratic movements made it too difficult.

The wolf was tracked to the San Carlos Apache reservation on Sunday and killed with a single gun-shot, said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Elizabeth Slown.

The agency decided in June to authorized the lethal action, marking the second time federal agents have killed a wolf in the New Mexico-Arizona region since the Mexican wolf reintroduction program began in 1998.

Lethal take is our last choice for removing wolves," said Dale Hall, director of the agency's southwest region.

Before the reintroduction proam began, Hall said the Fish and Wildlife Service made a promise that it would remove depredating

Windmill project snag

TN OLIVER SPRINGS — The expansion of the Tennessee Valley Authority's windmill project on Buffalo Mountain has hit a last-minute snag.

Oliver Springs Mayor Ed Kelley worries that hauling the seven-ton, 135-foot-long windmill blades and 95.000-pound bases for each of the 15 windmills through his town will damage the roads.

"You're not going to pull that crap down my streets unless some judge tells me," Kelley told representatives of the three companies involved in the \$30 million Invenergy LLC project Tuesday.

"It is not our intention to come bootlegging through here and leave a path of destruction in our wake," Alan Barnhart, president of the company overseein project, assured the mayor. overseeing



Ryan Nall, left, pours his mother, Laurie, a Business is slow cool drink as they wait for customers at Ryan's lemonade stand in front of their home in Anderson, S.C.



Two baby ruby-throated hummingbirds wait to be Dinner time fed in their nest at the home of Mildred and Cecil Ellis in Danville, Ky.



Workers put finishing touches on the Wrapping it up sculpture christened "Cloud Gate" at Chicago's Millennium Park. The sculpture of polished steel plates is part of the \$475 million project between Lake Michigan and bustling Michigan Avenue to be opened to the public July 16.



Inaugural crossing million bridge.

Participants cross the Sundial Bridge during an unveiling ceren Redding, Calif. Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava crafted the \$23.5



Work in progress preparation for the July 26-29 Democratic National Convention.

His masterpiece

Construction continues on the interor of the FleetCenter in Boston in



A cut above Chainsaw sculptor Keiji Kidokoro of Aichi, Japan, makes the initial cuts on the log he is transforming into a mountain house during Olde Sanborn Days at the Sanborn Fire Hall in Sanborn, N.Y.



Teek Eaton-Koch, 17, constructs an Aztec temple during the annual sand sculpture contest in Greenwich Point, Conn.

Teen nabbed by police

GREEN BAY — Three times was the charm for police who apprehended a teen bicyclist after the third robbery in a week of the same gas station.

Police said Monday that the 18-year-old man was arrested in connection with the robberies at East Mason Shell. The final heist was Sunday night, and it followed robberies the previous Tuesday and again on Friday. The description of the robber in all three cases was similar. After the first two robberies, Of-

ficer Dave Steffens staked out the station area. Once the call about the robbery

came in, Steffens spotted a suspect pedaling a bicycle and took him into custody without incident.

Christopher R. Harris was charged with three counts of armed robbery, carrying a possible sentence of up to 40 years in prison.

Airline service ends

PA LATROBE — Arnold Palmer Regional Airport near Latrobe saw the departure of the last US Airways Express. The flight ended 19 consecutive years of commuter service linking the airport with Pittsburgh International Air-port, about 45 miles away, Airport officials haven't been able to line up another commuter service.

Woman was not dead

CA SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Fire Denartment is investigating why a paramedic crew pronounced a 90-year-old woman dead and left her for the medical examiner, only to rush back to her home an hour later when investigators discovered she was alive.

The woman, Divia Masetti, died the next day after being taken to a hospital, authorities said.

Masetti was discovered last week in her house, caked in dried blood and urine and covered with flies and ants. The neighbor who found her. Anna Iriartborde, said she promptly called 911. "I really thought she was dead," she said.

A paramedic pronounced Masetti dead at the scene. Paramedics were summoned back after Masetti moaned when the coroner's investigators moved her, authorities said. She died the next morning; the cause of death has not been determined.

Tax-free weekend late

SC ANDERSON — Some parents must wait until school starts to get a chance to buy tax-free school supplies during the state's annual sales tax holiday weekend. The holiday falls this year Aug. 6-8. About 300 of the state's 1,100 schools will start before Aug. 6. Items such as clothes and computers are exempt from the state's 5 percent sales tax and any additional local sales tax.

No more party school

CO BOULDER — University of Colorado freshmen are getting a strong anti-alcohol message as the school tries to crack down on binge drinking and shed its image as a party school. This vear's freshmen will take a mandatory Web-based alcohol course.

Presentations for students and parents about alcohol, date rape,

drugs and safety are getting higher billing in the orientation schedule.

Wal-Mart plans blocked

OR HILLSBORO — The Ore-gon Court of Appeals denied Wal-Mart's plans to build a store in Hillsboro after the world's largest retail chain argued the city changed its rules in order to block the store. Wal-Mart spokesman Eric Berger said Wal-Mart has not decided whether it will appeal to the Oregon Supreme Court. city's objections centered on traffic and whether the store would blend in a residential area.

Girl bitten by ferrets

NC CARY — A 6-month-old girl wound up in the hospital after three ferrets bit her multiple times at her home. Her parents have been charged with misdemeanor child abuse.

John William Taylor, 33, and Donna Carroll Taylor-Colville, 38, were charged after a social worker notified police of the baby's injuries. Police say they are investigating

the case: more charges could be filed Police said Taylor and Tay-

lor-Colville had allowed the ferrets access to the baby in their apartment.

Halibut found ruined

AK ANCHORAGE — Airline of-ficials believe they have found the halibut that vanished from Ray Bolanos' checked bags two weeks ago on an Anchorage-to-Seattle flight — an incident that galled the Bolanos family, mystified the airline for a time, and stirred media interest across the country. Brenee Davis, a general manag-

er for Continental Airlines in Anchorage, said the company's baggage handlers discovered "a ton of rotting fish" under a luggage conveyor belt recently at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport that was stinking up the room.

Bolanos was flying Continental when about 40 pounds of his halibut vanished. Davis said there's no way to be certain the fish was his, but "we're taking a lucky guess." The fish smelled incredibly had

and was pitched immediately, Davis said.

Town renamed

NY ALBANY — The Franklin County town of Altamont is no more

The town has been renamed Tupper Lake to eliminate confusion with an Albany County village by the same name.

Town officials hope the name change will bode well for tourism while strengthening ties with the Adirondack village of Tupper Lake.

"I am excited that the town of Altamont is being changed to the town of Tupper Lake," said town supervisor Gregory LaFrance. "It will save a lot of confusion with the village of Altamont and it enhances the cooperation between the village and town governments."

Earlier this year, town officials lobbied the Legislature and Gov. George Pataki to change the town's name after it was determined that it carried no historical significance. On Sunday, Pataki signed legislation into law authoriza ing change.

Stories and photos from wire services

YOU'L

I'M NOT GOING

THERE YOU ARE

OUT OF IT

A TURN-ON FOR

WOMEN LIKE YOU

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J Horoscope

Mars and Neptune exchange strong vibes, inviting one another to show off their talents. Mars wants us to take strong, decisive Joyce Jillson

action, whereas Neptune begs us to latch onto more ethereal concepts and dream bigger, even if our plans aren't actually feasi ble. Wait until tomorrow's new moon to choose be tween practical and possibility thinking.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 16). Your confidence and self-esteem are off the charts this year, helping you build friendships that will

carry you toward your life purpose. Positive influences go far to bringing you toward your goals - you'll find many of those in an educational

Change patterns that no longer suit you in November, and you'll increase your earning in the pro-

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Though it would be so easy to get caught up in how and why you landed in this place, stay attentive to what is happening now. If you can stay present, new clarity helps you

develop a workable action plan. TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're a big respecter of privacy, but

you may not be able to contain your curiosity about a situation any longer. Remember what happened to the cat! Before you ask a lot of questions, consider what you might be getting into

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've got the energy to move

forward, but there will still be delays. No worries - these only help you make more thorough plans and also give you the chance to review and be sure before you finalize decisions.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The day starts not with a bang but

with a burst of diligence and elbow grease. Even if all you do is prep work today, it's the most productive day you've had in a long time. Details fall right into place

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Many people will be competing for the same result, and only a small number will be able to attain it. Such odds don't scare you, though. Mahat-ma Gandhi said, "There would be nothing to frighten you if you refused to be afraid

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your emotions are volatile. Take

time to cool off whenever you need it. Puttering around the house is just the remedy to take you mind off worries and ease you into a productive

mood. Tonight, you're magnetic. LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). Re-define your aims, goals and objectives. Even if you spend the whole day

thinking, drawing, plan ning, making charts and researching and do nothing that makes you any money - you'll be far ahead for the effort

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've not much to do and won't be able to handle it all alone. Begin the

day by delegating to whoeve ns willing. A flirtation with an Aries or Leo featured. Even you are surprised by your own nerve

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

21). Get domestic annoyances out of your life once and for all. Cleaning out your house helps you move forward. Also, forgive loved ones of whatever it was they did to get you mad. Resentments only restrain

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). You'll build on your former expectation and create a new one that overshadows anything you've dared to dream in the past. Just because you envision something doesn't mean you'll get it, but it certainly increases your chances!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Develop your powers of empathy! Whether applied to your love life or your professional life, your increased compassion will make you rich. Practice visualizing life from another person's point of view. You'll find

solutions

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're focused on the practicalities of life. After all, they must be handled in order for you to relax and dream. Lists, visualization, organizing and just doing will make a huge difference in your world.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



THAT LAST LETTER YOU SENT TO YOUR GIRL FRIEND AT THE DAISY HILL PUPPY FARM NEVER REACHED HER. SHE'S NOT THERE ANY MORE ...

























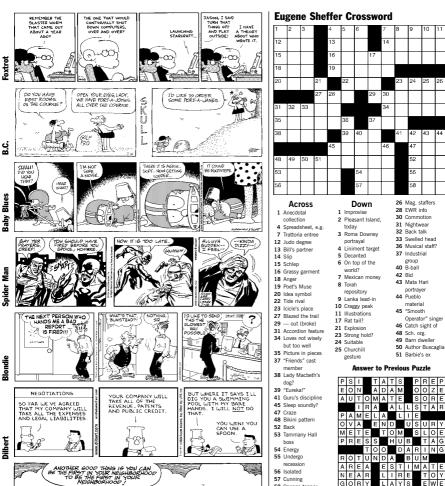






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Let the man do some pursuing

Dear Abby: I met a man on a

business trip recently I'll call him Ray. We spent a little over a week together and had a wonderful time. After I returned home, we decided we'd try a long-distance "whatever (It was never defined.) The following weekend I paid to Dear Abby

fly Ray here, and it was great. It seemed like things were heating up

Two weeks later I arranged a weekend getaway for Ray, myself, his son and the son's friend. Again, I paid for everything. Another co-worker had relocated there and joined us. We went to a sporting event and when we reached the ticket window, Ray said he had only enough money to pay for himself and the kids. Naturally, I paid for my own admission. My co-worker said. "I

can't believe you put up with him!" I ignored the comment The next day, he said he just wanted to be friends. (No problem.) Last night, while we were online he switched screen names. I made a comment kiddingly, "Trying to hide from me? (lol)" He went nuts! He sent an instant message that this is why he doesn't date. When I tried to respond, I found he had blocked my messages

Don't you agree that I deserve some explanation

Stupid When it Comes to Men Dear "Stupid": For openers, I'd erase his e-mail address from my computer. Then I'd take a long, hard look at what had happened since I met the man. Once you decided you liked him, you went

overboard. You made all the arrangements You paid for everything. When he

backed off, you didn't. I don't know whether or not he was trying to avoid you when he switched his screen name, but you may have hit the nail on the head. Next time, be less aggressive. Let the man do some of the

pursuing. When something comes too easily, it often isn't valued.

Dear Abby: We are invited to a renewing of the wedding vows of a couple who have been married for 10 years.

We are trying to figure out if we have to give them another gift, since we gave them one when they were first married Please help us out.

- Baffled in Brooklyn Dear Baffled: Call the couple and ask if (and where) they are registered. This will give them the chance to tell you whether or not gifts are expected.

"renewal of vows" could be considered a fancy anniversary party, and if you attend, you should mark the occasion with some sort of gift. It doesn't have to be expensive — it could be a photograph of you and the couple with a short paragraph sharing a happy memory.

Letters for this column – with your name and phone number – should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

one letter to each square

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion 800900 pas have been DISCONTINUED



TIFLLE

ASHRIP

SORE THROAT. Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

WHAT THE

SOPRANO ENDED

UP WITH WHEN

SHE GOT A

Yesterday's

Jumbles: VALVE HOVEL LARYNX VIABLE Anguer How the planetarium worker described his work - "HEAVENLY"

Daughter has an eye for bad boys

Dear Annie: My 21-year-old daughter, "Misty," is socially immature. She always has been attracted to the 'bad" boys who lack ambition, motivation, jobs, cars and families. We wonder why she is drawn to this type, since Misty was brought up with scads of love and attention. She has no reason to feel that she doesn't deserve a boy

with a positive future Misty's latest romance is with a young man of 25 who has no family in the area and works as a waiter at a coffee shop. He has no car and seems to be staying with a friend. In other words, he

is one couch short of homeless Misty has begun describing this fellow as her fiance, although we've heard nothing about an engagement. The worst part is that her sister and I have a gut feeling about the guy that scares us. We've never felt this way about any of Misty's other boyfriends, but this one seems dishonest, although we have no



evidence to back up our fears. We have talked about our feel-ings with Misty, but she insists the creep treats her like a queen He now is pushing for her to let him move into her place.

I have asked Misty to think carefully before she gets engaged or married, and to give this relationship a little more time before she

lets him move in

sense of self-worth.

- Misty-Eyed Mom Dear Mom: We trust your gut instincts that the current beau is

a creep, but that isn't going to be enough for Misty to drop him. Perhaps she was raised to be a confident young woman, but she nonetheless lacks a healthy

Misty needs to know her mother not only loves her, but has faith in her. Your worries may be justified, but your criticism of Misty's romantic choices is un dermining her decisions, and she is tuning you out. Is there someone Misty respects enough to

listen to about this? Her father perhaps? A girlfriend, employer or the family clergyperson? In the meantime, get to know the creep. It might help.

Dear Annie: You recently printed a letter from a 13-year-old girl whose teeth were discolored. You suggested she talk to her parents and her

dentist about whitening them I have been told by more than one dentist that a child should not attempt to bleach his or her teeth until age 18. Is it true? My 10-year-old wants to bleach his

 Tooth Fairy in the Dark Dear Tooth Fairy: Teeth whitening is not recommended for children under the age of 12 Teenagers under 18 should be evaluated individually by their dentist to see if they are eligible for whitening procedures. Jor wintering procedures.
Annie's Malibox is written by Kathy
Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime
editors of the Ann Landers column.
Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.met, or write to:
Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate,
5777 W. Centrury Blud, Suite 700, Los
Angeles, CA 90045.
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> Sid Ē he

Family Circus



"These wild flowers look pretty tame to me.





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"Look out, Thak! It's a ... a ... Navor can pronounce those thing



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ota - 1988 Toyota Lite Ace - JCl August 2005, Auto-c, 4Wheel Drive, 68,000 Seats 7, Power Window-ck, Heat/AC, AM/FM CD

Yokota - 1993 Honda Domani, \$600; JCI expires: Sept.1, 2004; \$600; JCI expires: Sept.1, 2009; timing-belt replaced and cooling system overhauled 2003. Fussa (Yokota): (042) 553-4502 or e-mail tgerald@asia.umuc.edu

Yokota - 1993 Toyota Carina -Runs great, 4 door sedan, automatic, only 47,000 km, ACHeat. Leaving soon, \$700, Available now. JCI - Nov 2004, 227-6848 or jacss2000@yahoo.

Yokosuka - 1994 Nissan Blue-bird, \$500, Short Notice PCS!

Van: Excellent condition, JCI until August 2005. \$900.00 OBO. Call 227-5638. Yokota - 1989 Suzuki: Every micro van, A-plate, gray, man-ual, A/C, JCI until March 2005. \$550.00 OBO. Call 227-7398.

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Skyline GTST: Perfect condition, black, and turbo charged, fast and very reliable. One of the ricest PSZ's you'll find. Pioneer store, 700 miles of the ricest PSZ's you'll find. Pioneer store, 700 miles of the ricest PSZ's you'll find. Pioneer store, 700 miles of the ricest PSZ's you'll find. Pioneer store, 700 miles of the ricest PSZ's you'll find. Pioneer 2005. \$3,200.00. (pictures available upon request). Call Stove at 637-3375.

Yokota - 1992 Toyota Promi-nent: Marcon, 4-door, automat-ic, power everything, Ad-AMFM casette CD player, 4 new tires, excellent condition, JCI until June 2006. \$2,000.00 OBO: Call 227-5638. Yokota - 87 Toyota LiteAce Van, A/T, Cold A/C, AM/FM/CD, JCI until Apr 2005, runs great. \$1000 OBO. Call Marcia at 227-3297.

Yokota - 94 Skyline GT, project on parts car runs, and drives great. Needs new bumper, Front quarter panel and hood. Asking \$600. OBO. 227-2703 Yokota Airbase - 1991 Toyota Trueno: black, 2-door, twin cam, 16 valve, 1.6 liter engine, JCI until January 2006. \$1,150.00. Call 227 4485.

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Yongsan - 2003 Audi A-4 convertible: Blue with grey color leather, mint condition, 2.8 kilometer. Call 011-9741-7919.

152

Butler - 95 Silvia S14 O's: 90 km on ODO, 5-speed with new OS super single racing clutch/fly wheel, enkel wheels, HKS mut-fler, RSR springs, black, JCI until June 2006, road tax just finished. Asking \$3,500.00. Call Jim at 622-6395 or email dev/lpup5583@yahoo.com

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cen control at 637-537b.
Foster - 1989 Toyota Hiace 8
passenger Van: XCI until June
2006 (2)easen), Both in excellent condition A/C.
Am/Fm/Cassetoi/CD changer,
nuns well, Riddes Nicel \$800.00
0DO. Call 646-6272 or email
kadydd@konnect.net for pictures.

Authorities you can email to discuss the control of the control of

Foster - 1991 Nissan Primera: Black, JCI until March 2006, runs great, cold A/C, just had 3rd child need to get a van. Asking \$2,800.00 OBO. Call

Foster - 1994 Toyota Marino: 4-door, JCI until June 2005, A/C, power windows, CD player, good tires, great gas mileage and great car. \$2,00.00 OBO. Must sale soon. Call 646-4448 Must sale soon. Lan 040 4440 or 090-8293-7318 ask for Leon. or 090-8293-r318 als. not notes.
Foster - 92 Nissan Primera 2.0:
Foster - 92 Nissan Primera 2.0:
Foster - 92 Nissan Primera 2.0:
for notes and property of the property and property and property family car, this one's if \$2,000.00 OBO. Call 646-4433.

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Foster - 95 Toyota chaser Avente: White, cold A/C, excel-lent car. Only selling because PCSing early. \$3,800.00 OBO. Call Tessa at 646-5100 or if you want pictures you can email to jibbtb@yahoo.com

Hansen 1995 Mitsubishi Deli-ca: Space Gear Van, Chamonix odition, seats 8, turbo diesel, 4 wheel drive, auto, nice CD stereo, TV, 2GL until Jan 2006. \$5,500.00 or best offer, may consider payments. call 090 3592 5933

Adding \$2,00.000 DBC. Call consider payments. call 000 Peters 1930 7,000 per 1950 pe

learniasestrocacula 4 yanoo com-tor pictures, need to go score.
Kadena - 1998 Tgvta Town Acc Relable tamity Van, itte rust, AC needs rechangs. 30 Chly Score to interested call 6 32 - 34 4 7 or em all armurphy filterists on e.p. Kadena - 1990 Hondon Integrat Great condition, cold A/C, CD player, power windows, tinded windows, new tun-ey and oil change, LCI until October 2005. 9, 100.100 EOC. Call 928-1811. for pictures, need to go soon.

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Kadena - 1990 Toyota Light Acc: \$2,200.00. Available now! New JCT: June 2006, dual A/C. A must for kids in back! Great dive van tool Mon root, rotating seats. Sharp looking and clean, pold. Call 633-0582 or email evaprez

joux. Call 553-USSC or email jovaprez 8 hormali.com. Kadena - 1991 Toyota Varc. Black, fair condition, new radia-tor, power boks, and power windows. JCI due October 2004. Asking \$50.00 OSD. Call 956-9286 or email annie.

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- Okinawa

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GTS-T R32: 2-door, automatic,
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Claim - 1992. All sales,
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S2-50.00 OBO. JCl until Co-ber 2005, 92.000 km, exhaust,
Will sell after July 15 PCS-Busic,
Call derrick at 633-1697 or email
derrick. Satterfield @kadena.af.
mil

Kadona - 1992 Toyota Camry: AC, Automatic, CD player, pow-er windows, power locks, win-dow tinted, JCI until August 2004, good condition, need to sell. 81,500.00 OBO. Call Rom-mel (CP) 090-9784-1465 or (HP) 633-9265.

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message.

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\$1,900.00 OBO. Check it out
w w w . x a n g a .
com/watashinokuruma. Call
Shella at 633-2391. Kadena - 1993 Nissan Prairic: JCI due Mar 2005, cold A/C, automatic locks, great family van. \$900.00 OBO. Call Kay 634-2410 or 633-1257

Kadena - 1994 Town Ace 4X4: Excellent condition. \$2,500.00 OBO. Call Jeramie or Rebecca at 959-7090 or email Rebecca. thomton@kadena.at.mil

Kadena - 1995 Nissan Pulsar: Silver in color, cold A/C, has run immediately for two years now, but I am PCS/ing and must sell. Boad tax has already been paid. Asking \$1,600 or better offer. Feel free to email me at Jeremy. ancar@kadena.af.mil or call at 633-6095.

633-6095.

Kadena - 1995 Nissan Skylne:
4-door, great shape, cold A/C,
new JCI, good until June 2006.
CD player, great for small
family. \$3,200.00 OBO. Contact
Brian or Stephanie at 633-1745
or e.mail Armstrong_
brian2003@yahoo.com

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Kadena - 89 Surf: Gray Inside and out. 140 km, JCI until September 2004, 4 cylinders, runs well: Got to get if off hands, take it for \$1,000.00 OBO. Call Shawn at 632-3208 email for pictures or a text drive. Email: semi

140,000 kilometers, JCI until September 2004, 4 cylinders, A/C, runs great. \$1,000.00. Call Shawn at 632-3208, 090-6861-4121 or email smwilliams_sr@yahoo.com Kadena - 89 Toyota Surf: 140,000 kilometers, JCI until Kadena 89 J. J. 140,000 kilometers, JCI until September 2004, 4 cylinders, A/C, runs great, \$1,000.00. Call Shawn at 632-3208, ngn-6861-4121 or email

smwinams, sreyanoo.com
Kadena 90 Hilixo: 4-wide door,
automatic, hidden trailer hitch
installed, binden windows, ice
cold ArC, AMFM cassette 10
disc changer, very good condi-tion, well taken care of, LGI until February 2005. \$3,000.00. Call
Scott 633-8071 or email

spward@kda.attmil.ne.jp Kadena - 91 Toyota Hilux Surf: With 20° rims, TV, PS2, CD/MP3 player custom system with 2 12's, 1200 watt aming extra optima battery, stiffening cap, cold A/C. This truck looks

and rums great. Call Shawn 633-2077, 090-9596-3144 email for pictures nonelower2001@yahoo.com Kadena - 92 Toyota Emina Minivan: Tan/silver pearl metal-lic, excellent condition runs excellent, cold dual A/C, JCI until December 2005. Must sell! \$4,300.00 OBO. Call Mandy at

633-5170. Kadena - 95 Nissan Cefino: White, spoiler, clean inside/outside, great condition, cold A/C, CD player, and JCI until May 2005. \$3,300 or \$2,000 & 7 payments at \$189 at BC Motors. Call 633-0954 or e m a i luvmykidz2004@yahoo.com

Kadena, Okinawa - 1990 S13 Silvia: Dark blue, CA 18 auto

Naden, Delhawa - I hard Salo Hard Salo - I hard Salo - I hard Salo Hard Salo - I hard Salo - I hard Salo - I hard Hard Salo - I hard Salo - I hard Salo - I hard Flager & II of I salos, power locks, cold AC, & much more, nool as paid, 2I flager & II of I salos, power windows, power locks, cold AC, & much more, nool as paid, 2I 16th . S2,500. OBD. Call 533-1241 . Dou't hey dean, very relabed, 100° Very dean, very relabed, into I tamily car. Uff until January 2006. Asking \$2,200.00 or bed ofter. Call 622-5197 or 00° 9707-980.

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Kadena, Okinawa - 89 Skyline 5 speed GTS-T, very fast, lowered Moler and GTS-T, very fast, lowered Moler and Gagae, water pump gasge, HKS farbo timer, soper details of the speed of the sp

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Foster - 1993 Honda Integra: \$900. Must go!! JCI until March 2005. Please Arlen at 646-2792 leave a message and I will get back to you.

seril April 2005, both clean, run jornal, rocent of Abragalhan sub, incar 1989 Nissan Praise automatica Both for \$1000.00 kg/ var. Plans good, great A/C, CD was a last officion 48 player, fisted basic windows, player

satetherosis glades com

Actions 1920. Name laver? Copie of control of contr Kadena - 1995 Toyota Estima: Dark green, front and rear AC, CD/MP3 player, ground effect, aftermarket exhaust, 17 inch rims, JCI good until April 2006. Asking \$4,500.00 OBO. Contact Pete or Alaine at 632-3520.

nnis, Jul good unit Apri 2005.
Asking \$4,500 O OBC. Centact
Pate of Alane at 922-9500.

Adoor automatic, gas engine,
4-door, sunmoof, CD steno,
power bodo, power windows,
91 power, very cold
622-9804.

Asking \$3,000.00. Call Will
90-9782-3156.

Kadena · Toyota 1992 Windom:
Super cold AC, all power locks
and windows, leather seats,
super cold AC, all power locks
and windows, leather seats,
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super control. Chitape deck, road tax
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Kardena - 1996 Nilssam Silvia:
Vellowillack, JCI is due March
2006. No problems, graat AC,
5-speed transmission, altermananchooly kit and side decals.
Teen suspension. Professionally
missibled audio system (CDMPs)
two 12 inch sabs. bass controlter, and large gauge wrises. Fee
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JCI good til April 06. Asking \$4,500.00 OBO. Contact Pete or Alaine 632-3520. Kinser - 1992 Mazda Bongo: JCI good until October 2005. \$1,300.00. Set up for Motor Cross, will hold three 125/250s and few powers. Cold A/C, new CD player. Ready to take to the track. Ask for Brad at 637-9516 or email ossishib@konnect net.

tery, and great air. \$2,00 OBO. Call Kristie at 637-440

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Kadena, Okinawa - Gateway 19 inches color monitor: Excellent condition. Will sell for \$100.00. Call Bonnie at 633-7070.

Kadena, Okinawa - I am looking for free Macintosh computer! fi you have one please call and I will pick it up. Call Mike at

will pick if up: Call Make at 533-4215. Kadena, Okinawa - Sorry 17. Kadena, Okinawa - Sorry 17. Inch TFT LOD Monitor, Same viewing area of a 19° CRT Monitor, 1280 X 1024 resolution, casy adjustable kuminance con-roti, fresh allem modern design, like new condition only a few months use, selfs or \$539 and months use, selfs or \$539 and the BX will sell it go for \$425. Call 633-6242.

360

Baby Items 200 Foster, Okinawa - Eventilo blue-/white plaid infanthodder car seat with padded in great cases with padded in great of the particle of the padded in the padded in great cases. See Cast Jennifer at 646-887 or email bowln1

\$20. Call 646-4083. Foster, Okinawa - Infant baby monitors still in box, \$10. Call Jennifer at 646-3877 or email bowlin1@konnect.net Pictures

bowlin1@konnect.net Pictu available by request. r, Okinawa - Jenny Lino m color oak crib in perfection. Only 1 year old dium color oak crib in perfect ditton. Only 1 year old, sady disassembled. No mat-is. \$75.00 OBO. Call Jennifer 646-3877 or email vin1@konnect.net Pictures ilable upon request.

available upon request. Footer, Otinawa - Johnny, Jumper: Only used a couple of time. Excellent condition, very clother as good place we just didn't have a good place to hand. \$20. Call Jennifer at 64.6-38.77 or email bowint @ Konnect.nst

Kadena, Ckinzwa - Double jogging stroller. Used and works:

CALT SEGO.O OBO. Call

baby and want a comforter set not sold at exchange, very cute patchwork of sold colors, denies and plaids. Comforter, fitted balance paid \$250 selling for \$65.00 excellent condition. Call Nicole at 646-6102.

Kadena, Okinawa - Graco duo glide double stroller with matching infant car seat base. Talor gue proom in my wan. \$60.00. Call Julia at 630-6502.

Foster, Okinawa - Peg Perego Travel System: Bought in the sates July 2003. Navy blue color with white plaid, infant carrier with 2 car bases, everything in great condition. \$250.00 for all. Call 6 46 - 67 68 or mbbaldwin-4@hotmail.com

Kadena, Okinawa - Baby Trend Swan sitting stand LX plus double stroller perfect condition used hand full of times. Comes with infant car seat attachment. Great for toddler to sit with stand

633-4288 or 630-4548.
Kadena, Okinawa - Blue and White Evenifion stroller. Has rail across the front. Basket under-neath. Cup holders. Easy to de-nand very clears. \$30.00 Call 633-6929 leave messages.

633-6825 leave messages.

Kadena, Ökinama - Graco Lightweight Dio Glide double strollerin common descriptions of the common of the common

Kadena, Okinawa - Kolcroft vibrating crib: White bassinet that vibrates the baby to sleep \$4 0.0 0. E m a i1 brianika79@yahoo.com

Baby Items

200 Kadena, Okinawa - Okie Dokie Blue & White striped stroller Bottom basket & pocket on back of seat. Light weight. Very clean \$20.00. Call 632-6929 leave

ressage. Two Strol-lers for sale: Cheapl Children are too big for them now and they are just taking space. One has an infant carrier that attach-es. Willing to sell one for \$40.00 and the other for \$50.00 OBO. Constance. E-mail Florida Biddena. Ilmill or wishin 74 @yhoo.com

Bicycles

220 Kadena, Okinawa - Bicycle for sale: one" boys & one 29" girls. Come check out and make an offer. Call Charlie at 633-1266.

Allaz road bike Asking \$500.00.
Call 633-8224.
Radena, Okinawa - Road Bike:
Kadena, Okinawa - Road Bike:
High performance, beautiful blue men's DeRosa version 54cm frame with veloce 9 speed group, Ambrosio wheels, Campagnolo post with pedals. ITM bar, Selle Filee saddic; immaculate condition. Value \$2,700.00
Asking \$1,800.00. E-mail james. bermudez @kadena.at/mil.

To \$1,250. Call 653-6242. Kadena, Okinawa - Computer moreltor. Large 18* viewing area. Gateway EV910; Immaculate condition. Excelent for playing computer games, watching DVD'z, etc. Asking \$160.00 OBO. Call Enc 936-2281 or m a part of the condition. Excelent for playing computer games, watching computer games, watching condition. Asking \$160.00 OBO. Call Enc 936-2281 or m a part of the condition of the conditio Boats bermudez @kadona af mil S. Aadena, Okinawa - Laptop: Gateway 2900 Series Deluxe Penilum PC, with office 97 small business Ed. Booksheff 98, CD Rom; floopy disc drive. Greatl however; uses wall outlet plug only). Asking \$200.00 OBD. Call 995-225 to email james bermudezkadena af mil

Soats Japan - FOR SALE:
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Computers

amotios, \$2000, or whole set for tames \$5000,000 cold indi-6654. Foster, Chinawa - Couch & Love seat Must ago Dark thus pin stripes. Had only 8 months. Will set \$300 no less than \$5000, mast puck up. Call Candice so: \$300 no less than \$500, mast puck up. Call Candice on a 1 i W. C. a n d i c o - Mitchell (Naderna all mill set) and the cold in the cold Kadena, Okinawa - Men's blazer jackets, two (2): One is a light brown wool woven pattern, and the other is a grey wool woven pattern casual, great for war work o church, with or with out a tie, size 44. Like new. \$60.00 OBO, each. E-mail james. bermudez@kadena.af.mli 350

usti micrit bel5-4723.
Foster, Okinawa - Full size couch and love seat: Dark blue with small flowers in staggered pattern and wood trim on armirest and back of armirest, wery size, good condition. S250.00. Call Jeff or Sharon at 546-6323.

Camp Zama, Japan - Collecti-bles: Baseball, football, and basketball cards for sale. Sets, signed autographs baseballs photos, cards, swatches and photos, cards, swatches photos, p

646-6323.
Kadena Airbase, Okinawa - Full size green plaid couch, slight mildow smell, and \$50.00. Call 633-0370.
Kadena, Okinawa - Blue child's racecar bed. Good condition. \$120.00 OBO. Email sniider@kk-da.attmil.ne.jp. or call 633-2166 for more information.

Furniture 510

Kadena, Okinawa - Sorry VAIO ALL-IN-ONE Desktop PC with 17 inches wide aspect LCD Monitor, purchased from BX a few months ago for \$1,859, like new condition, loaded with over \$300 in extra software, will sell for \$1,250. Call 633-6242. aach or both for \$110.00. Call Greg at 633-6242.

Kadena, Okinawa - Cream sofa hand made of Alpaca & Andes wool. http://www.sofaworkshop. Oralidox.ph/?-catdedd8-call \$2000.00 with payment or \$1,700.00 without. lease email scrider@kda.atmtl.ne.jo or call 633-2166 serious inquires only.

Schwab, Okinawa - Kathy Ire-land's kids loft bed, includes mattress, six drawer dresser, and bookcase. Less than a year old. Asking \$350.00 OBO. Needs to sell before July 15. Call 090-3790-5867.

Yokota, Japan - Furniture: Musi sell two brown recliners, 3 month old \$200 each, white wash with honey accents, 7-plece twin bedroom set, \$500.00 OBO. Call 227:5638.

Area 1, Air Conditioner, Fedders Windows, 12,000 BTU, 110 vollage, Modelie RT12F2A, Cabinet Size: 29 & Window, 22 b Depth,
lion, Never Used in Korea,
Asking: \$145.00, Call:
Output Condition, Never Used in Korea,
Asking: \$145.00, Call:
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Output Condition

Foster, Okinawa - For Sale: 10in Q-Logic Subwoofer box for your car. Brand new in box still, from crutch field! Ended up not using it Need to sell, beautiful! New subwoofer box for your 10in woofer! Make me an offeet Call 6 46 - 47 27 or em a !! Endt 83 49 acl.com

Encl 834 WaoLcom
Foster, Okinawa - For Sale: Car
Speakers: MB Quart 5-25in
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no longer fit. Call if you want to
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Home Electronics 570

Kadena, Okinawa - 12* Pioneer Sub woofer 500watts max. Has a couple minor surface scratches-does not interfere with speaker performance. Still origi-nal packing for \$15.00. Call Jeff at 633-0068.

Kadena, Okinawa - 20° Sam-sung TV: Perfectly good with remote. Still books new. Nothing wrong with it, but I'm moving. I paid \$130; I'll sell it for \$100.00 OBO. Call Shella at 633-291 or 090-9789-9086. Kadena, Okinawa - Looking to purchase the BOSE 3-2-1 sys-

Kadena, Okinawa - Panasonic DVD player, paid \$300 for it, will sell it for \$95. Call Greg 633-6242. 633-6242.
Foster, Okinawa - 31 Inch RCA television: Good condition. Needs to sell. Please call Carol at (W) 641-2407/8 or after 5pm 645-6438.

u-0704-00.
Foster, Okinawa - Air condition:
New in unopened box. Model sACc244XP Whitipool 24,000
BTU. Wireless remote. Cools dehumidifier and liters air. Window mounting kit included 335.00. Please call Scott at 646-4520.

Kadena Okinawa VCR for sale. RCA, 4 head, with remote. Great condition. Asking \$60 obo. Call Eric 936-2261 or email cho. Call Eris 935-2251 of email james bermudez 8 kadema af mil James bermudez 8 kadema af mil James bermudez 8 kadema af mil James 1 kames 1 kadema 1 k

Zama, Japan - Speakers: B&M Matrix 803 speakers, one pair, consecutive serial numbered, walnut, rated up to 250 watts, 90dB, excellent condition, origi-nally worth \$3,000, will sell for \$2,199.00 OBO. Call 263-7250.

Kadena, Okinawa -Wedding ring set awallable. The upgrade to another. Very hard to get at the price of \$300.00 for set. They are titanium; set includes man and woman's band. If interested p I e a s e m a i I graywolfe2003

Job Offered: Part time Nanny needed for family of 4 children. Hours vary, not more than 20 hrs per week. Salary negotiable depending on experience. Pre-fer English or Spanish speaker. Camp Humphreys, Korea:

Musical Instruments 740

Yokota, Japan - PCS Yard Sale 7:00 A.M. to noon, Bldg 3293.F /:00 A.M. to noon, Bldg 3293-E 7 piece twin bedroom set, furniture, lamps, clothes, clishes, yard tools, rug, wall hangings, air conditioners, television, grill, etc. Call 227-5638.

PCS Sale

Yokota, Japan - Free cat to good home, solid black, de-tendoned, neutered and micro-chipped, very friendly, used to kids. 227-5562

Yongsan, Korea - A family with small children in Yongsan might BOARD your SWETEST LARGE breed DOG or puppy for you while you are gone, AFTER August 11. Contact Lisa DSN 738 4276 or email kleenyongsan@yahoo.com

Kadena, Okinawa - Land for sale! Nebraska! Very close to Offlutt AFB! Nice level tred lot to build on! Asking \$10,000 or best offer. Hurry this won't last!! Call Tome at Kadena Air Base at 633-1219 now! Yokosuka, Japan - Lot for sale! 500 sq. meters in Baguio City, Philippines. Asking: \$ 25K Cali: 2 4 6 - 78 8 5 or C ell: 080-5455-0452

Sporting Goods

Foster, Olinnava - 2002 Kawa-saki 900 STS let Ski Excellent condition with cover, 3 "slippert" vest, great trailer, and extras. \$5,000.00 BC, Call 646-6272 for more information. Xadama, Okinawa: Mobile Bas-letial Hoop: Great shape, handly used, not rusted at all. \$75.00 OBO, Call Scot at 633-8071 or email spward@kda. attmil.no.jp

Miscellaneous

large boxes of miscellaneous items. No time for flea market. Will sale all for \$70.00. Clothes, computer games, shoes knick-naks and much more. Call 622-8574.

Foster, Okinawa - 20-gallon fish froster, Okinawa - 20-gallon fish tank with Oscar, plants, and catfish. Everything included and must go! Fish food, décor chemicals, plants, you name it. \$100.00. Call 646-4083. Foster, Okinawa - Bed-in-a-bag, fish theme, fish wall décor, fish lamps, small rug, and chalk-board. All for \$50. Call 645-4723 ask for Michi.

Foster, Okinawa - Car Audio (2) Kenwood KAC 4825 200w amp 525 each; Kenwood PS200t 400w amp 550; Kenwood M919 Unaerimini disc player DSP/D919 Unaerimini disc player DSP/D919 CD player spectrum analyzer MP3 compatible S500.00 All prices negotiable. Call 646-2610 (HM), Cell #990-9795-8197 or mail Mikkot68@konnect.net

780 Jobs Offered

Staff Accountant UMUC

Kadena, Japan - Two boxes of toys include puzzle, dolls, and stuffed animals, drawing sets, unopened kids meal prizes and more. All in excellent condition make an ofter. Call 633-2033.

Bldg, 445 located tact DSN: 225-2090 or

Please contact DSN: 225-2090 or e-mail drogers@asia.umuc.edu for further assistance. Miscellaneous 1040 Miscellaneous 1040 Kadena, Okinawa - 65g aquari-um for sale: Brand new, never used Lights and filter are still in the box. \$300.00. Please cal 932-1649.

932-1649.

Kadena, Okinawa - 8 in 1 outdoor plastic playground: In good shape. Asking \$145.00.
Call Kim at 633-6239. Kadena, Okinawa - Longaberger Wrought Iron bowl stand. Brand new, used only for display. Paid \$140.00. Asking \$120.00. Very beautiful! Call Kristin at 633-7703 Cast Nami at 653-9239.

Kadena, Okinawa - Large trash bag full of military uniforms. Great for flea markets. \$30.00 for the bag. Call 632-4712.

Kinser - 1995 Toyota Corona:
Dark green, 4-door, UCI good
through April 2006. New front
tress and front brake pads, April
2004. Good A/C, radio, power
windows, looks and runs great.
No rust no problem. PCS orders
in hand, must sell. Asking
\$1.750.00 OBO. Call Kadena, Okinawa - Barble! Two sets Barble pink'n pretty doll houses (can be combined to make one large house), com-plete furniture sets to fill all rooms, and Barble dolls. \$35.00. Call 633-2033. 090-3075-3992 or burbankrd@firstbb.ne.jp

Yokota, Japan - Wanted: Terzo bike or ski rack. Type that attaches to spare tire. Call Chris at 080-5077-6863 Attaches, Okinawa - Cherry wood changing table 1 year old, \$40.00 OBO; 2 Winnie the Pobl changing pad covers, \$5 each; sterilizer, \$20', first year bottle warmer, \$10', Boppy with activity arch, \$20', call \$83-1308.

arch, \$20. Call 633-1308.

Kadena, Okinawa - Little tykos
fire truck step 2: In good real
good shape. \$25.00. Call Klim at
633-6239.

Kadena, Okinawa - Must go
pool table for sale: Excellent
shape! Asking \$600.00 OBO.
Call 633-7008 for more information.



in Saturday's Relocation Guide STARS STRIPES

Sell it.....Free!

Foster, Okinawa - Minolita Vectis GX-4 in or out of the water this camera takes regular through panoramic pictures. Good for depths to 26 meters. \$50.00. Cal 646-4618 or email okinutz @firstbb.ne.jp



Advertise your car, truck, motorcycle, boat, or bicycle in Stripes free! No charge! On us! Up to 7 lines of copy for 21days - free! Call Classified today at 229-3276 or e-mail us at classifieds@pstripes.osd.mil.

> Your Stripes. Your Story. Get it Daily. STARS STRIPES.

FRIDAY EVENING / JULY 16, 2004

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31 GOLF GOIT Talk British Open. British Open Highlights 2000 GOIT Central Academy GOIT Central Academy	 European Tour Weekly 	PGA Golf: National Dye West Virginia C	Classic
32 TLC Master bedroom; home office. (CC) becomes a stylish ranch. (CC) wood Babylon' A living room is made over in viritage Hollywood style. (CC) Bruce' Experimental theater in a living room. (N)	to Wear (N) (CC)	While You Were Ou wood Babylon" A liv over in vintage Holly	ring room is made
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42 SPIKE Horsepower TV (CC) Star Trek: The Next Generation "High Ground" (CC) Star Trek: The Next Generation "High Ground" (CC) Star Trek: The Next Generation "Deja Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "In Purga- Star Trek no's Light (CC) Star Trek: The Next Generation "Deja Star Trek: The Next Generation "Deja Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "In Purga- In Trek: The Next Generation "Deja Star	Deep Space Nine "By Infer (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene load" (CC)	investigation "Over-
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	m "Crimes of the Heart" Hig der case.	h- Fake Out (N)	Forensic Files Apartment fire kills two women
48 STR-NLD Baywatch (CC) The Simpsons (CC) Star News Focus Asia Star News Focus Asia (CC) UCC (CC) UCC (CC) OCC (CC) (CC)		Nash Bridges (CC)	
50 LIFE (5:00) ** "Too Rich: The Secret Life of Doris Duke" (1999, Drama) Lauren Bacal, Richard Chamberlain, Kathleen Guirlan, Varheen Guirlan, Doris meets Portino Rubirosa and Louis Bromfield. (CC) Farneworth. Lifelong pals cope differently with their	nds, Linda Lavin, Richard udden widowhood. (CC)	Merge A couple trie (CC)	s to merge tastes.
51 ABCFAM House (CC) Full House (CC) 7th Heaven (CC) 4 ** "Gettling Even With Dad" (1994, Comedy) Macaulay Culkin, Ted Danson. Whose L Anyway? Anyway?		The 700 Club (CC)	
53 HIST American Revolution "England's Last American Revolution "Brith of the Republic" (Part 6 of 6) (CC) A-10 Tankbuster The A-10 Tankbuster Th	thawk Stealth (CC)	Sex in the 20th Ce Coming of Age" Roa	ntury "Passion's aring '20s. (CC)
575 STR-MIT Stream the Destroyer" (1984, Furtissy) Arrold (25) ++ "Long Life, Happiness and Prosperity" (2002. Schwarzenegger, Graze, Jones, Wit Chambeldan, Connail - Comedy-Drama) Sandar Ch. Valeire Tain, 1 sa Chin. A girl chambel to retire we assert eligious artifact. Connail - Conna	iters.	Schneider. A cheerl switch bodies via m	leader and a man
58 ADV 1 (5:30) Death Zone: Winds Over Makalu High-althude climbers embark on a Himaleyan adventure planet factor the moon. A man attempts to expedition. but of the moon. A man attempt to the climbers embark on a Himaleyan adventure planet factor the moon.	Journal Game for It Skiin expedition.	Desert Friction	Adventure Plane
59 MTV Road Rules "Er- treme: Chile" (CC)	Pimp My Ride Chevy Luv truck.	Punk'd Vivica Fox; Chris Klein.	Wild Boyz
60 NICK SpongeBob Rugrats Angelcs Scaredy Camp SpongeBob SquarePants (CC) [10 (cd. v)]	m Rugrats Angelica makes Santa quit (EI) (CC)	The Fairly Odd- Parents (CC)	As Told by Ginger

JAPAN TV

Morning 7:30 Disney (12) Afternoon 3:12 Grand Sumo: The 13th Day (1) 5:50 News (6)

550 News Glot. The Latinus (1)
Evening
Develop (2)
February (2)
February (3)
Februa

JAPAN TV-BS7

Morning
6:00 Top News from Around the World
6:30 Top News from Around the World
7:00 Top News from Around the World
7:30 Top News from Around the World
7:30 Top News from Around the World
8:00 MLB: Philadelphia Phillies vs. New York
Mets

Mets 11:00 MLB: Cleveland Indians vs. Seattle Mar-

iners
Afternoon
2:00 PBS NewsHour
3:00 CNN News
4:00 World News Hour
5:00 CNN News
5:25 ABC News

5:25 ABC News Evening 6:00 Japan Pro Ball: Hanshin Tigers vs. Chuni-chi Dragons 10:00 MLB Highlights 10:30 Grand Sumo Digest, 13th Day 11:00 BS News

11:30 Economic News 11:50 BS Prime Time: World Reports 12:40 2004 Triathlon World Cup Series (2) 2:05 Asian News 3:50 PBS NewsHour 4:40 Asian News 5:00 Top News from Around the World

JAPAN TV-BS11

Moorning

SSS World News Hour

wowow

Morning 7:30 TV Series: Friends 9:50 Canadian-U.S. Movie (2002): Bowling for Columbine (2:07)

12:00 TV Series: Dawson's Creek 1:00 U.S. Movie (2002): City by the Sea (1:50) 4:50 U.S. Movie (1985): Rocky IV (1:34)

Evening 9:40 Stephen King's Kingdom Hospital Epi-sode 3 9:40 Stephen King's Antigutum rospitum socie 3 socie 3 11:00 Stephen King's Kingdom Hospital Epi-12:20 TV Series: The Sopramos 1:25 TV Series: Sex and the City 2:10 Canadian Movie (1995): Crash (1:44) 4:00 Canadian Movie (1992): Scanners III: The Takeover (1:40)

MTV Morning

6:00 Wake Up 7:00 M Size News Thursday

7:00 M Size News Thursd 8:00 Top Choice 10:00 Pure Music 11:00 Top Choice Afternoon 12:00 Classic '90s 1:00 Screen 1:30 Consensus: R. Kelly 2:00 Pure Music

200 Fure Music 200 Tox Choice 5:00 Tox Choice 5:00 Tox Choice 5:00 Tox Choice Freday 7:00 Rockett, Ludan's 8:00 High High Sould Ok Performing Artists 10:00 Screen Fure Music State Stat

Honda 1:00 YATAI 2:00 M Size Guest Friday 3:00 After Hours

FACES 'N' PLACES

Olympic records

Macy Gray, Lenny Kravitz and Avril Lavigne are among the voices welcoming the Olympics back to Athens, Greece, in three albums recorded to honor the Sum-

The albums, titled "Phos." "Unity" and "Harmony." were recorded for the Aug. 13-29 games, record label EMI Greece an-

nounced Monday.

"Phos" which means "light" in Greek, features songs by Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis sung by local musicians. "Unity" is made up of international stars and "Harmony" has classical songs

"I was excited to be a part of the 'Unity' album, especially right now with the hard times we are having in the U.S. and around the world with the [Iraq] war," Gray said. "I think the Olympic Games is a great oppor-



tunity to bring a lot of people together for a positive rea-

O.J. a '90s icon on VH1

O.J. Simpson's slow-speed police chase may be the iconic moment of the 1990s, at least according to the VH1 nostalgia series "I Love the '90s."

The 10-hour program, which started with two installments Monday and runs through Friday, devotes one hour to each year of the decade, chronicling all the pop culture touch-stones from Sinead O'Connor to "Beverly Hills, 90210."

Producer Karla Hidalgo said the cornerstone of the era begins in

1994, with Simpson fleeing police before his double-murder arrest. Since the "I Love the ..." series, which has also documented the

1970s and 1980s (twice), involves comedians and other pop-culture figures cracking wise about the past, the producers said they weren't sure they wanted to include the famed double-homicide

"At first we weren't sure how to deal with that." Hidalgo said. "But when we started talking about it with our interviewees, what they remembered was mostly watching it and their initial reaction to it, everything from disbelief to 'Go, O.J., go!' — not really grasping exactly what had happened.

Master P's hoop dreams fall short

Master P didn't make the cut.

Percy "Master P" Miller, chief ex-ecutive officer of No Limit Records, was among the players trimmed from the Denver Nuggets' summer league team before practice Monday.

"[Miller] thanked me and was very respectful," summer league coach Scott Brooks told The Denver Post. "I was impressed. I heard some questionable stories from other teams. He worked hard. But he even knew it and said he wasn't in



In 1999, the rapper was waived from the NBA's Toronto Raptors.

It was his second try to reach the pro leagues. The Charlotte Hornets waived him the year before

Franken factors in new name

day

Al Franken's radio show, "The O'Franken Factor," is changing its name to "The Al Franken Show. The new, more typical, show

name was chosen over candidates such as "The O'Limbaugh Factor and "The O'President Bush Factor," Franken said in a statement Mon-

Franken's daily three-hour show



on the liberal talk radio network Air America Radio was dubbed "The O'-Franken Factor" in a jab at Fox News host Bill O'Reilly. The 53-year-old comedian said he's changing the name because "no

matter how hard we tried, conservative entertainer Bill O'Reilly wouldn't sue us.

O'Reilly had no comment Monday



Bacon Brothers a serious band, though Kevin can't turn down demand to 'shake it'

BY JENNIFER FREY

So the band is into its encore, and has already borrowed a tune from the Rolling Stones, when it comes time for the at the from the Rolling Stones, when it comes time for the and the sold-out crowd at the Brans Hoad Tavern in Amapolis, Md., is whooping with excitement. "Well, I gotta cal foose..."

And there, center stage, is an almost 4-6 year-old Kevin Bacon, getting jiggiy once again with the song that made him at teenage hearthrob back in 1984. His hair is shaugay, but the song that made him at teenage hearthrob back in 1984. His hair is shaugay and if the worn Levi's and let's face it. The fins love it. pair of truly worn Levi's, and let's face it: The fans love it. So, yeah, this isn't what Bacon had in mind when he and his big brother, Michael, formed the Bacon Brothers, their folk/rock/country/soul band, a decade ago. And it's not what you get for most of the show. But Bacon long ago succumbed to the inevitable: You

BUT Issorts long ago succumbed to the inevitable. You can't dance your way around an abandoned warehouse, rocking those hips to a teenage anthem of rebellion, then expect to get away with becoming a musician without throwing in a little "shake it, shake it for me." Want proof? 'Up near the stage, a woman can't sit still. She's tapping her feet, she's snapping her fingers, and looks as though she's having the most fun she's had all looks as though she's having the most fun she's had all

mght.
She's Kevin's big sister Elinor.
She's Kevin's big sister Elinor.
Flootloose." Kevin brought the soundtrack over before
the movie came out, and I was listening to the thing on the
cassette and I loved it." She require to the thing on the
cassette and I loved it." She require.
She tiron, shakes Fig. She the require.
She tiron the full, "she quiedly adds. "I love Michaell Darly to the Boy, which he wrote for his soon, and
Kevin's songs about his children and his wife. "
But there it is: Even his sick can't resist the soon that

But there it is: Even big sis can't resist the song that first introduced her brother to the big time.

So the band's in the dressing room before show time, with the usual syraul of buffalo wings and some-ting-or-other dip and a half-eaten burger sitting out on the table, a last-minute hunt for a replacement guitar under way (Kewińs appears to have gone missing). It's thrist night of a brief, 10-day tour, including Annapolis, Washington and New York.

washington and rew Tork.

Bacon is explaining how he just decided to have fun with
the whole movie star thing. He knew the critics would be
eager to savage him, to paint him as yet another celebrity
who thought he could rock. So he decided to poke the beast

"Look, I just figured it was going to come up," Kevin says. "And I didn't want to really pretend that I wasn't an actor. So by playing the song ... actually, when we first started playing, I used to talk about being an actor a lot

more." Two boys raised in a household with four sisters in Center City Philadelphia, Kevin and Michael have been tight since childhood, despite the mine-year age difference. Kevin hit Michael in the head with a melody flut when the was just 2 years old. ("Its metal, it's sharp, it hurt," Michael says. "He let it go," Kevin chips in) Michael first Laught Kevin to help with guite when the little brother was



Top: Kevin Bacon performs during a Bacon Brothers gig at the Key Club in Los Angeles in April. Above: Michael Bacon shares the stage with his more famous brother. Movie star Kevin and younger brother Michael formed the band a decade ago.

"He showed me how to play a few chords," Kevin says.

"He showed me how to play a few chords," Kevin says. "Taught me how to play 'Hee,' Jude."

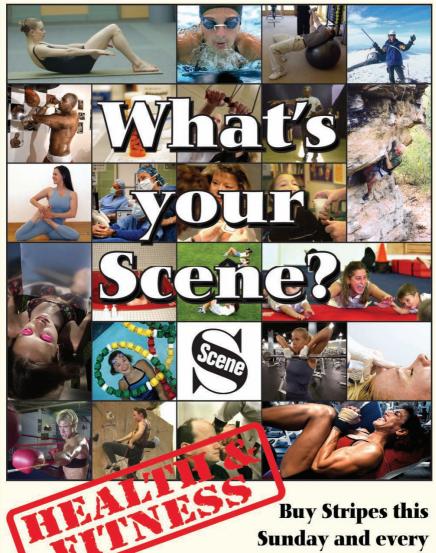
The band came about in 1994, when Kevin was betwee film projects and he and Michael decided to try their hand at writing some songs together. Again. This, apparently, was a long standing Bacon boys scheme. Never mind that Kevin was now a movie star, with films such as "A Few Good Men" on his resume and "Apollo 18" on the hortzon.

Good Men" on his resume and "Apollo 18" on the hortzon. which was now a movie star, with films such as "A Few bands of the star of the hortzon. The star of the hortzon was now the star of the hortzon. "A great was a such as the hortzon was a such as the hortzon was a such as a such as the hortzon." A great was the hortzon was not been such as the hortzon was now the hortzon. The hortzon was the hortzon was not been such as the hortzon was now the hortzon was now the hortzon. The hortzon was now has now the hortzon was now has the hortzon was now has now the hortzon was now had now h

whatever it was. Then we had this idea it would be easy to write a country song, so we tried to write a country song.

But then a friend asked them to play together at a charicy event in their homelown, and they hesistantly agreed, the properties of the properties of the properties of the properties. They trilled their first album "Forosco," which stands for folk, rock, soul and country, the elements they blend in their music. The most recent one, their fourth, is also a D. "I blank, intuitively, we saw that if we wanted to become successful, we had to do it that way," Michael says of starting out without trying to trade on his brother's celebrity status. "In some ways, though, it is a get-rich-quick scheme, only it hasn't quite happened that way." "Yeah," he says. "Only we haven't gotten rich and it hasn't been quick."

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Sunday to get your Scene!

SCOREBOARD

AFN schedule

Times listed are Japan and Korea Star dard Time. Guam is one hour ahead; Sir gapore and Hong Kong are one hour behind Schedule subject to change without notice

Television AFN-Pacific/AFN-Korea

SAT., July 17, at 10 a.m. — Pro boxing: Kobo logoladze vs. Anthony Morea, super featherweights.

SÜN., July 18, at 8 a.m. — Pro baseball: N.Y.
Yankees vs. Detroit.

AFN-Atlantic

FRI., July 16, at 8 a.m. — Pro baseball: Phila-delphia vs. N.Y. Mets. SUN., July 18, at 2 a.m. — Pro baseball: St. SUN., July 18, at 5 a.m. — Pro baseball: San

AFN-Sports

FRI., July 16, at 8 a.m. — Cycling: Tour de ance, 11th stage llth stage. Ily 16, at 4 p.m. — Women's pro basetball: Detroit vs. Houston. FRI., July 16, at 8 p.m. – Pro baseball: Balti-

more vs. Tampa Bay.

SAT., July 17, at 8 a.m. — Pro baseball: St.
Louis vs. Cincinnati SAT., July 17, at 11 a.m. – Pro baseball: Bos-ton vs. Anahelm.

SAT., July 17, at 4 p.m. - Cycling: Tour de France, 12th stage.

SUN., July 18, at 5 a.m. — Pro baseball: Chicago White Sox vs. Oakland.

SUN., July 18, at 8 a.m. — Auto racing: Indy League Firestone Indy 200.

Cycling

Tour de France

Wednesday
At Saint-Flour, France
10th Stage
147.27 miles from Limoges to Saint-Flour
1. Richard Virenque, France, Quicl
Step-Davitamon, 6 hours, 0 minutes, 24 sec
onds.

onds. Andreas Kloden, Germany, T-Mobile Peam, 5 minutes, 19 seconds behind. Team, 5 minutes, 19 seconds behind. Seconds behind. Francisco Mancebo, Spain, Illes Balears-B. Santander, 5 minutes, 19 seconds behind.

5. Thomas Voeckler, France, Brioches La Boulangere, 5 minutes, 19 seconds behind.

8. Thomas Venckier, France, Briches La Boulangers, "Intimical, 19 seconds behind. Boulangers, "Intimical, 19 seconds behind. "Level Technical," and "Level Technical," and "Level Technical," and "Level Technical," askers for extremely a seconds behind. S. Rim Krichen, Lusemburg, Fassa Bortolo, 3. Rim Krichen, Lusemburg, Fassa Bortolo, 3. Michiele Scrapen, Istay, Domina Vacanze, 5 minutes, 19 seconds behind. 11. Thomas Washers, 19 seconds behind. 11. Thomas Washers, 19 seconds behind. 12. Michiele Scrapent, 18 by Domina Vacanze, 19 seconds behind. 12. Michiele Scramsson, Demark, Rabilla, 19 seconds behind. 13. Living Bassol, Italy, Teem CSC, 5 minutes, 19 seconds behind. 15. Jan Ullich, Ceemay, 1 Mobile Team, 5 mitutes, 19 seconds behind. 15. Jan Ullich, Ceemay, 1 Mobile Team, 5 mitutes, 19 seconds behind. 15. Jan Ullich, Ceemay, 1 Mobile Team, 5 mitutes, 19 seconds behind. 17. Thomas Washer, 19 seconds behind. 18. Thomas Washer, 19 seconds behind. 18. Thomas Washer, 19 seconds behind. 19. Thomas Washer, 19 seconds behind. 19. Thomas Washer, 19 seconds behind. 19. Thomas Washer, 19 seconds behind.

Boulangere, 42 nours, 42 minutes, 14 sec-ord Start O'Grady, Australia, Coffidis Credit Par Telephone, 3 minutes, 0 seconds behind. 3. Sandy Casar, France, fdjeux.com, 4 min-utes, 13 seconds behind. 4. Richard Virenque, France, Quick Step-Davitamon, 6 minutes, 52 seconds be-hind.

S. Jakob Pill, Demmark, Team Cootso dre S. Jakob Pill, Demmark, Team CSC, 7 min-utes, 31 seconds behind. 6. Lance Armstrong, United States, US Post-al-Berry Floor, 9 minutes, 35 seconds behind. minutes, 58 seconds behind. 8. Jose Azevedo, Portugal, US Postal-Berry Toor, 10 minutes, 4 seconds behind. 3. Jose Enrique Gutlerrez, Spain, Phonal Menging Systems, 10 minutes, 9 seconds be-buding Systems, 10 minutes, 9 seconds be-buding Systems, 10 minutes, 9 seconds be-

10. Francisco Mancebo, Spain, Illes Bale ars-B. Santander, 10 minutes, 18 seconds be hind.

nind. 11. Tyler Hamilton, United States, Phonak Hearing Systems, 10 minutes, 18 seconds be-

12. Santos Gonzalez, Spain, Phonak Hearing Systems, 10 minutes, 19 seconds behind.
13. Andreas Kloden, Germany, T-Mobile Team, 10 minutes, 20 seconds behind.
14. Oscar Sevilla, Spain, Phonak Hearing Systems, 10 minutes, 26 seconds behind.

15. George Hincapie, United States, US ostal-Berry Floor, 10 minutes, 26 seconds

Pro basketball WNRA

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Charlotte	10	7	.588	-							
Connecticut	11	8	.579	_							
Indiana	10	9	.526	1							
Detroit	9	9	.500	15							
New York	9	10	.474	2							
Washington	8	9	.471	2							
WESTERN CONFERENCE											
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Seattle	14	6 7	.700								
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Seattle Minnesota	14 11 9 8	7	.700 .611 .500 .444 .421	2 4 5 5							
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Seattle Minnesota Sacramento Houston	14 11 9 8	7 9 10 11	.700 .611 .500 .444 .421	2 4 5							

Soccer

Major League Soccer

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Columbus	- 5	5	4	19	15	16			
Chicago	ā	5	6	18	16	16			
New England	3	8	ā	13	16	24			
Western Conference									
Los Anneles	W	Ļ		Pts	GF 32				
Los Angeles	9	5	3	30	32	25			
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Kansas City Colorado Dallas San Jose	8 5 5 4	4 4 5 6	34655	30 28 21 20 17	32 24 13 17 23	25 14 14 21 23			
Kansas City Colorado Dallas	8 5 5 4	4 4 5 6	34655	30 28 21 20 17	32 24 13 17 23	25 14 14 21 23			

Wednesday's garr Chicago at New England Los Angeles at Colorado Saturday's games Colorado at San Jose New England at Columbus Los Angeles at D.C. United

Kansas City at Dallas MetroStars at Chicag Tennis

Mercedes-Benz Cup

Tuesday At The Los Angeles Tennis Center

Los Angeles Purse: \$355,000 (Intl. Series)

Purses 355,500 (fint. sories)
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Wayne Arthurs and Paul Hanley (2), Australia, def. Karol Beck and Dominik Hrbaty, Slovakia, 6-7 (6), 6-4, 6-4, Robbie Koenig, South Africa, and Thomas Shimada, Japan, def. Mardy Fish and Jeff Morrison, United States, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Mercedes Cup

Wedn At TC We At TC Weissenhof Stuttgart, Germany urse: \$762,966 (Intl. Go Surface: Clay-Outdoo Singles Second Round

Simple
Scored Bound
Juni Injacilo Come de Ju

Bank of the West Classic

ATTHE THEST MASSIE

AT THE STANDARD AT THE STA

Amy Frazier (6), United States, def. Amber Liu, United States, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3. Marissa Irvin, United States, def. Meghann haughnessy (7), United States, 6-3, 6-1.

Dutch Open

Wednesday
A Sport Special Spec

Deals

Tuesday's transactions

NASCAR—Fined Tommy Baldwin \$5,000 for his role in a fight in Tony Stewart's pit during the Tropicana 400 at Chicagoland Speedway last weekend, fined him an additional \$5,000 for not controlling other team members and placed him on probation until Dec.

BASEBALL American League BOSTON RED SOX—Signed SS Dustin

Pedroia and assigned South Atlantic League

and passed men assetting men of Augusta of the Malinia Baskethall association GOLDEN STATE WARRINGS—Announced to Malinia Baskethall association GOLDEN STATE WARRINGS—Announced to Malinia Baskethall association to the team to Michael Marks, Jim Davidson, John Thompson and Fred Harman Malinia Baskethall League SAN DIEGO CHARRERS—Signed OT Ryon lingham to a three-year contract.

from NFL Europe injured re HOCKEY ed T Chris Zien ed reserve list.

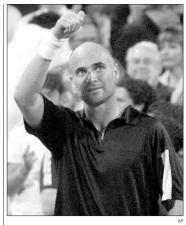
National Hockey League
LOS ANGELES KINGS-Agreed to terms
vith D Joe Corvo on a one-year contract.
PHILADELPHIA FLYERS-Signed C Tony

/oce.
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS—Agreed to terms
with D Ric Jackman on a multiyear contract
COLLEGE
ILLINOIS-CHICAGO—Agreed to terms with
immy Collins, men's basketball coach, on a

COLLEGE
ILLINOIS-CHICAGO – Agreed to terms with
mmy Collins, men's basketball coach, on a
ree-year contract extension through the
08-09 season.
MIAMI—Suspended senior CB Antrel Rolle
stoficiation.

idefinitely. RIDER—Named Barry Davis baseball

TFYAS A&M—Named Pat Henry track



Andre Agassi gestures to the crowd after beating Alex Bogomolov Jr. in the first round at the Mercedes-Benz Cup for his 800th career vicotry.

Agassi becomes sixth to win 800 matches

LOS ANGELES - Andre Agas si won the 800th singles match of his career Tuesday night, beating Alex Bogomolov Jr. 6-3, 6-1 in the first round of the Mercedes-Benz Cup at UCLA.

The 34-year-old Agassi is just the sixth player to reach 800 on the ATP Tour since the advent of the Open era in 1968, along with Jimmy Connors, Ivan Lendl. Guillermo Vilas, John McEnroe

and Stefan Edberg, who joined the group in September 1996. That's quite a group of guys to

be in there with," said Agassi, whose first win was a 6-4, 6-2 decision over John Austin at La Quinta, Calif., in 1986, when he was 15 "They probably accomplished it in half the time that it took me, but regardless, it feels good. It's special. I don't really think of the 800 wins as they're going along. But any time you sort of accomplish something that only some of the best have done, it's pretty spe cial:

Getting No. 800, however, had taken him even longer than expected. He lost his previous four matches, three in the first rounds of tournaments. He also withdrew from Wimbledon to rest a chronic right hip injury.

This tournament's top seed and a three-time champion, Agassi quickly dispelled any upset thoughts Bogomolov might have entertained by racing to a 3-0

"I felt good as far as my move ment," Agassi said after the 54-minute match and a brief on-court ceremony. "I thought I was going to be a little bit more tentative, but I trusted my legs

lead in the first set.



and pushed through it and I felt good. I felt like for the match I made a lot of good decisions. But I know it can only get better.

He also acknowledged that his hip problem could resurface.

"I can't just play one good match and get my hopes up," Agassi said. "I'm just taking it

Earlier Tuesday, No. 2 seed Paradorn Srichaphan ousted defending champion Wayne Ferreira 6-3, 7-6 (4). In other matches, Greg Rusedski beat No. 7 seed Taylor Dent 7-6 (7), 3-6, 6-2; Mardy Fish (3) eliminated Jan Vacek 7-6 (5), 6-2; Sjeng Schalken beat Gregory Carraz Julien Benneteau ousted Mark Philippoussis 6-1, 7-5; and Wesley Moodie defeated Zach Fleishman, 6-4, 6-2.

Top-seeded Schuettler loses in Stuttgart

STUTTGART, Germany Top-seeded Rainer Schuettler was knocked out of the Mercedes Cup in the second round Wednesday, losing 6-7 (6), 6-3, 6-2 to Radek Stepanek.

Stepanek broke serve for a 4-2 lead in the second set, and then went up a break for a 2-1 lead in the clay-court event.

Schuettler dropped his serve and Stepanek won in just under two hours, improving his career record against the German at 4-2

Schuettler lost in an opening match for the 10th time this season. He reached the semifinals at Gstaad last week



A bit of role reversal in golf's hierarchy

BY DOUG FERGUSON The Associated Press

TROON, Scotland - Despite two U.S. Open titles and a wealth of talent, Ernie Els used to show up for major championships trying to convince himself he could win It was a one-sided argument

that he usually lost. "It was difficult for not only my self but for other players to really believe that you can go out there and play your game and think it's going to be good enough," Els Tuesday at Royal Troon

That was at the height of Tiger incomparable run through the majors, when he won seven of 11 majors, set scoring records in each Grand Slam event and held all four trophies at the same time

Els showed up at Royal Troon with high hopes and in a new role - the betting favorite to win the British Open, the first time in a major since the 1997 Masters that the best odds were assigned to someone other than Woods.

And the Big Easy didn't need a betting slip to know that

Els, not Woods, is odds-on favorite in British Open

"Right now it's different," he said. "I feel that when he plays really well, he's going to shoot 67. But if I play well, I can shoot that score, as well. And I can keep doing that for three or four days. I think we're on a more level playing field now, and maybe because Tiger Woods has come back to the field a little bit."

Ladbrokes listed Els as the 7-1 favorite Tuesday, with Woods right behind at 8-1.

To get an idea how much has changed in two years, consider that Woods was the 4-1 favorite going into Muirfield - not only to win the British Open, but to win the final two majors for the

"Tiger will be back to his dominance, if not this week, very soon. I'm sure of that," Thomas Bjorn said. "But I just think everybody else sees themselves being able to play to that level."

Maybe that's what gives this British Open a truly "open" feel at Royal Troon.

Phil Mickelson has a green jacket to go with that wry smile, a winner at the Masters for his first

major. The only thing that stopped Lefty from the first two legs of the Grand Slam was Retief Goosen, a smooth South African whose second U.S. Open victory might finally make people aware of his greatness.

"Where Tiger was and where he is now, I mean we're in differ-ent worlds now." Els said. "A lot of the players feel that we can compete with him now at the highest level. He's still playing great golf. He's still not that far off Is he still No. 1?

Maybe not after this week. Els had a chance to replace

him last month in the U.S. Open. Two shots out of the lead and play ing in the final group, Els made double bogey on the first hole and crashed to an 80.

He gets another chance at Royal Troon, where a victory counled with Woods finishing 17th or worse would end Woods' run of 257 consecutive weeks — dating to the 1999 PGA Championship at No. 1 in the world.

"To be No. 1 in this day and age, with this many great players, would be quite something," Els said. "But for me, to win this tournament is more important. To win majors is more important for my career.

Still. Els knows there is a long road ahead of him at Royal Troon a links known for its tough final nine holes, the tiny "Postage Stamp" green on the 123-yard eighth hole and putting surfaces as pure as any in the British Open. Mickelson has never finished in

the ton 10 in a British Onen his weak link in the majors. But he has never prepared so well for the Open, playing Royal Troon last Wednesday, on Friday after he missed the cut at Loch Lomond and Monday morning in what probably was his final tuneup.

Along the way, he has taken conious notes of where the hall is likely to wind up after traveling along the humps and bumps of the firm linksland.

What I've tried to do this week is to understand where balls will tend to end up and try to be effective from there to the hole," Mickelson said. "I feel much more confident than I have in the past because I have come in and

prepared properly." He also was prepared for a question about his chief rival, and whether Woods has lost an aura of invincibility.

Well, that's a tough one to answer," Mickelson said, before de-ciding to go no further.

All it takes is a couple of bad wings to get in trouble at Troon And that's what has kept Woods winless in the past eight majors, with only one PGA Tour victory more than halfway through this

Woods didn't say his swing was "close" because no one asked him — they have heard the same answer the past three months. But he has looked relaxed all week not outwardly bothered by going two years without a major, or by the posse of players closing in on his No. 1 ranking.

Congressmen are told sports in U.S. need uniform tests

WASHINGTON - Insufficient drug test ing in some of America's premier pro sports leagues has led to a world percep tion that U.S. athletes routinely use illegal performance-enhancing substances. Congress was told Tuesday. Terry Madden,

Sports

head of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, an independent organization that monitors America's Olympic athletes, said some countries balk

at signing anti-doping codes because they believe professional athletes in the United States are among the worst violators

"The perception out there is that we're not a clean country," Madden said. The National Football League has solid

testing, he said, but baseball, basketball and hockey "need to raise their programs."

Madden and Bill Martin former head of the U.S. Olympic Committee, told the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control that uniform standards for testing ama teur and pro athletes are needed. Such standards would provide "consis-

tent messages to athletes and would greatly simplify enforcement," said Martin, athletic director of the University of Michigan The Olymnics he said have a more exhaustive list of banned substances than the

Martin and Madden testified for a Sen ate bill that would ban over-the-counter sales of steroid precursors, which act like steroids in the human body.

The House voted 408-3 last month for a

Miami suspends CB Rolle

MIAMI - Miami Hurricanes cornerback Antrel Rolle was suspended indefinitely Tuesday by coach Larry Coker after



Miami senior Antrel Rolle was projected to be among the nation's best cornerbacks this season. He was charged last weekend with battery on a police officer.

being charged this weekend with battery on a police officer.

According to a police complaint, Rolle was involved in a fight in a street near campus early Sunday morning and resisted arrest, cursing and swinging his arms in an attempt to free himself and forcing officers to call for backup.

We take these accusations very serious ly." Coker said in a statement announcing that Rolle had been suspended.

Rolle was released on bond and is scheduled for a court appearance Aug. 2. He was expected to be one of the Hurricanes' top players after deciding in Janu-

ary to return for his senior season

The Hurricanes open the season Sept. 6 against Florida State.

Salt Lake City gets MLS franchise

SALT LAKE CITY - Major League Soccer made Salt Lake City its newest franchise on Wednesday.

MLS Commissioner Don Garber announced the addition of the team at Rice-Eccles Stadium at the University of Utah, where the team is expected to play its first two seasons. Play will begin there in April 2005.

MLB Trotter agrees to return to Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA — Former Pro Bowl middle linebacker Jeremiah Trotter re-turned to the Philadelphia Eagles on Wednesday, agreeing to a one-year con-

Trotter's deal, believed to be worth less than \$1 million, is contingent upon his passing a physical on Thursday

Trotter, 27, spent the past two seasons with the Washington Redskins after playing four years for the Eagles. He left Philadelphia following a contract dispute in 2002, but never lived up to the seven-year, \$35 million contract he received from the Redskins

Trotter's role is uncertain. Mark Simo neau is listed as Philadelphia's starting middle linebacker, with Dhani Jones and Nate Wayne at the other two starting snots. Trotter led Washington with 129 tackles

in 16 games last season. He had 104 tackles in 12 games in 2002, before going down with a knee injury.

Trotter has 774 tackles, 10½ sacks and

four forced fumbles in his six-year NFL ca-

A third-round draft choice from Stephen F. Austin in 1998, Trotter established himself as one of the premier middle linebackers in the NFL during his time in Philadelphia, going to the Pro Bowl in 2000 and

He led the Eagles in tackles from 1999-2001, including a career-best 202 in his first season as a starter in 1999. Trotter strongly protested being designated Phila delphia's franchise player after the 2001 season, and signed with the Redskins soon after the Eagles removed the tag, making him an unrestricted free agent.

NFL fines Cooper, Robbins, Stubblefield for THG violation

NEW YORK - Chris Cooper and Barret Robbins of the Oakland Raiders and free agent Dana Stubblefield have been fined three game checks by the NFL for testing positive for the steroid THG.

They also were placed on "reason-

briefs

the rest of their careers and will be suspended for eight games if they again test positive for any steroid.

The action was the result of an agree ment announced Wednesday by the NFL and the players' union that has been pending since last October. Cooper and Stubblefield are defensive linemen and Robbins is a center. A fourth player, linebacker Bill Ro

manowski, also tested positive, although the league didn't identify him. He announced his retirement after last season, and his case is pending. All four players were with the Raiders at

the time they were tested and when THG was identified.

The league said they were the only positive samples in 1,700 retests of every sample taken before last Oct. 6. The league also said there were no positive samples in more than 4,000 tests since that date.

Bucs release DT Russell

TAMPA. Fla. - Defensive tackle Darrell Russell was released by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Tuesday, four months after the troubled former Pro Bowler signed with the team

The Bucs had hoped to give Russell, the second overall pick in the 1997 draft, a chance to replicate the success he had before off-field problems derailed his career.

Packers waive DE Reynolds

GREEN BAY, Wis. - Jamal Reynolds was waived Wednesday by the Green Bay Packers, who reacquired his rights after he failed a physical, voiding his trade to the Indianapolis Colts. The Packers had sent the fourth-year de

fensive end, the 10th overall pick in the 2001 draft, to the Colts for a future draft pick on July 8. Reynolds was active for 18 of 48 games

during his three seasons in Green Bay where he recorded just 17 tackles and

Astros fire manager Williams, hire Garner

BY JOEL ANDERSON The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Astros fired manager Jimy Williams and replaced him with Phil Garner on Wednesday, a last-ditch effort to rescue a season that

with Pfill Garner on Wednesday, a last-ditch effort to rescue a season that started with World Series expectations. "We needed to make a move quickly," General Manager Gerry Hunsicker said during a news conference. "We needed to

jump-start this club right now. We didn't have time to fool around here." Garner, a former Astros player, is taking over on an interim basis. The team will conduct another search at the end of the sea-

"I'm excited. I'm a Houston boy and I'm looking forward to it," Garner, a former manager with Detroit and Milwaukee, told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "We got some boys on the team that I think

can do something really special. This is an opportunity that I've been waiting for."

opportunity that I've been waning for."
Williams' job security had been the subject of speculation for about a month, right about the time Houston's surprising slide down the NL Central standings began. He was fired early Wednesday morning during a clubbouse meeting with Hunsicker, owner Drayton McLane and other team officials

Houston was 44-44 heading into the All-Star break, a remarkable disappointment for a team that was tops in the NL Central for the first six weeks of the season

trai for the first six weeks of the season.

The season began with expectations of
the club's first World Series appearance in
is 42-year history after the offseason acquisitions of former New York Yankees teammates Andy Pettitte and Roger Clemens.
Along with Williams, pitching coach

Along with Williams, pitching coach Burt Hooton and hitting coach Harry Spilman were fired. They were replaced



tively, from Triple-A New Orleans. The Astros went into the All-Star

The Astros went into the All-Star break losers of six of their final eight games, finishing the first half of the season in fifth place in

the NL Central. Houston is 10½ games behind division-leader St. Louis — the first time they've faced a double-digit deficit at the break in 11 seasons.

During pregame introductions for the All-Star Game Tuesday night, a sellout crowd at Minute Maid Park voiced its frustration by booing Williams. Williams doffed his cap, but was clearly embarrassed.

Williams, 60, has guided the Astros to two second-place finishes, losing the divi-

with Jim Hickey and sion race last season in the final week Gary Gaetti, respec-

The Astros made the postseason four of five seasons before his arrival from Boston in November 2001, but have failed to

clinch a playoff berth since then.

The Astros have been surprisingly punchies on offense, ranking only 19th in the majors in scoring. Their highly touted pitching staff has struggled as both Petitie and Wade Miller have spent time on the disabled list. And Carlos Beltran hasn't been the quick fix they expected—the All-Star

center fielder is hitting 263. Hunsicker has repeatedly emphasized that the club has loaded up solely for an autumn finish. Beltran is a free agent, Clemens was coaxed out of retirement, Jeff Kent and Craig Biggio are in the final years of their contracts and Jeff Bagwell is nearing the end of his career.

"Time is of the essence here," Hunsicker said. "We can't waste too much time here."

Angels unlikely to acquire Johnson

BY BILL SHAIKIN Los Angeles Times

HOUSTON — Anaheim Angels owner Arte Moreno all but pulled his team out of the Randy Johnson derby Tuesday, expressing admiration for the five-time Cy Young Award winner but pledging to keep the core of his minor league system intact.

General Manager Bill Stoneman has long insisted that he would not trade his top prospects. Moreno, in his first full season of ownership after a winter in which he spent \$146 million on free agents, said he would not order Stoneman to pursue Johnson, the ace of the Arizona Diamondbacks' staff.

"I won't do that," Moreno said. "That's not the way we'll do business. That won't come from me."

Johnson said Monday he would consider waiving his no-trade clause to join a World Series contender, with the Boston Red Sox, New York Mets, New York Yankees, Chicago White Sox and Chicago Cubs among the suitors. The Los Angeles Dodgers are talking about a trade with Arizona, but not necessarily for Johnson.

not necessarily for Johnson. Moreno called the 40-year-old Johnson "a Hall of Fame pitcher and a tremendous pitcher, still," but trading for him this season would add \$16 million to the Angels' player payroll next season. Moreno plans to lower the payroll from \$108 million this year to between \$90 million and \$100 million next year.

Although Johnson would imthis season, Moreno said he does not want to wreck Stoneman's plan to replenish the noster affordably by trading prospects who might become everyday players soon. In exchange for Johnson, the Diamondbacks are believed to



Anaheim's front office said it prefers to stay away from big-money players like Randy Johnson, above, in favor of building through its minor league system.

have asked the Angels for at least two of their top three prospects third baseman Dallas McPherson, first baseman Casey Kotchman and catcher Jeff Mathis.

"One of my commitments is that we are going to build a championship team long term," Moreno said. "I don't think the right way to do that is to give up part of our minor league system."

The Angels do not appear to have a surplus of overwhelming major league talent to persuade the Diamondbacks to trade their franchise player. Reliever Scot Shields is attractive, but reserve outfielder Jeff DaVanon is eligible for salary arbitration next year, and disgruntled reliever Ramon Ortiz carries a \$5.5 mil-

lion option.
Dodgers General Manager Paul
DePodesta declined to comment
specifically on Johnson but said
recent events had not affected his
conversations with Arizona General Manager Joe Garagiola Jr.

"No, not specifically," DePodesta said Tuesday. "I have talked to him recently, but that puts him in a group of about 15 to 20 GMs. I've been talking to Joe for a few weeks".

weeks."
The Diamondbacks, with the worst record in the major leagues, are uncertain about trading Johnson but are interested in trading other veterans, including infielders. Roberto Alomar and Shea Hillenbrand and outfielders. Damny Bautista and Steve Finley.

This is serious business

Most players dislike that

home-field advantage in the

All-Star Game, But it didn't

help Mariano Rivera or the

New York Yankees last year.

World Series is decided in the

BY JIM SALISBURY The Philadelphia Inquirer

HOUSTON — Kill it. Keep it.
They have now played two All-Star Games that, ahem, have counted, and the players and Major League Baseball still have a hefty difference of opinion over whether the exhibition contrest should continue to determine which league gets home-field ad-

vantage in the World Series.

Commissioner Bud Selig says the matter should

not be open to negotiation.

Meanwhile, the players, who must approve the

concept if it's going to continue next season, basically hate the idea.

"I didn't like it from Day One," said Boston pitcher Curt Schilling, "I don't see why it's so difficult to be like everyone else and let the

best record dictate home field."
"Drop it," said New York Yankees
outfielder Gary Sheffield. "It doesn't
make a whole lot of sense."
Schilling and Sheffield are Ameri-

can Leaguers who, come October, might benefit from Tuesday night's 9-4 victory over the National League. But that's not about to change Schilling's opinion of the cur-

rent all-star setup.
"Home-field advantage is big," he said. "I'm sure it would be big in a place like Boston. But I still don't like this."

Selig has two big slabs of meat on his plate right now — the relocation of the Montreal Expos and a tougher steroid policy. (It appears as if Pete Rose has slipped off Bud's plate and fallen onto the floor. Pete had better dog.) Once the Expos get their new home and the steroid policy is toughened so that it includes a suspension and public flogging for first-time offenders, Selig must get around to letance in Detroit will have a prize atcame in Detroit will have a prize at-

tached or not.

First, he must persuade the players association to go for it again.

The union will. Grudgingly, But it will.
We would bet on a two-year extension, through
the 2006 season. Not coincidentally, that's how
much longer Fox's golden-goose broadcast contract
—six years, \$2.5 billion — has to run.

"It's Fox's game and they have a significant voice," Schilling said. "I just don't think people outside," Schilling said. "I just don't think people outside, in the same should dictate something with as much impact as this."

Fox likes the idea of a game that means something, even if there no evidence that players compete with more intensity — something Selig wanted — or managers like loe Torre say their No. 1 goal is still to get everyone in the game. That's where this whole thing started in the first place. Two years ago, Torre and Bob Brenly ran out of players in extra innings and the game was declared a tie. Selig took a lot of heat, and it was undeserved because he wasn't the one who ran out of players.

Neither side ran out of players Tuesday night. But Roger Clemens ran out of magic.

This was his All-Star Game, in his hometown. He was the Most Valuable Player in 1986, the last time

the game was played in Houston.

This time, he was the Least Valuable Player, giv-

In the time was the Least variation of Flayer, giving up six runs in the first inning. Selig made it clear Tuesday that Fox wants this all-star format, and that sponsors like interleague play. The fans also like interleague play, as attendance figures show. The average attendance for this year's interleague games was 33,000. Regular games

have averaged just over 29,000.

"For years, baseball was this dinosaur that didn't

care what its customers, the fans, said," Selig said. "Our broadcast partners like this (all-star) arrangement. Our advertisers like it. What am I supposed to do, tell them we don't like it? I'm not doing it. Those days are over in this sport."

Sheffield scoffed.

"Bud's looking at popularity," he said. "He's doing a lot of things to get the public appeal. If people say thes like it, as much flak as he's taken, he'll stay with something people like."

Most players hate the concept. Some, like Florida Marlins third baseman Mike Lowell, come down somewhere in the middle. That's not surprising, considering Lowell's Marlins stared Yankee Stadium in the eye in October and defeated the home team and all its pinstriped ghosts to win the World Series in six games.

Under the old format, the NL would have had home-field advantage in last year's World Series. Hank Blalock's game-winning homer gave home field to the American League.

Lowell didn't mind being away from home for the clinching Game 6.

"It's a better story to celebrate at Yankee Stadium rather than the hallowed confines of Pro Player Sta-

dium, with all the statues," he said.
Statues?

"I think we have one of Dan Marino," Lowell deadpanned.

Still, home-field advantage in the World Series is important. Schilling's former Arizona team showed it in

2001. The Anaheim Angels showed it in 2002. Both teams won Games 6 and 7 at home to win the Series. Will the home field make a difference in this year's World Series?

We'll find out in October

Soriano an MVP in own right after being swapped for one

The Associated Press

HOUSTON - Now the Texas Rangers can say they traded an MVP for an MVP

Alfonso Soriano was the other guy in the deal that sent Alex Rodriguez to the New York Yankees last winter. On Tuesday night, Soriano became the star of the hitting Game, three-run homer off Roger Clemens in the first inning and earning the Most Valuable Player award in the American League's 9-4

"I feel a little sorry because he's been nice to me all the time," said Soriano, Clemens' former teammate on the Yankees.

Because of the trade, A-Rod and Soriano will be forever linked, their performances compared, a modern day Ted Williams and Joe DiMaggio.

Soriano, a three-time All-Star at age 28, hit .289 with 17 homers and 55 RBIs in the first half, helping the surprising Rangers take a two-game lead in the AL West after three years of last-place finishes with A-Rod

Rodriguez, an eight-time All-Star and the 2003 AL MVP. hit .270 for the AL East-leading Yankees with a team-high 22 homers, 58 RBIs and 18 steals - fine numbers, but below the even higher expectations he created for himself. He was 1-for-3 with an RBI triple Tuesday night.

"I think he's doing his job with the Yankees and I'm doing my job in Texas," Soriano said. "I'm happy for him, but happy for me,

Soriano's 343-foot shot off Clemens was his second All-Star homer following a drive off Dodgers closer Eric Gagne two years ago. It sailed over the "This One Counts" banner hanging over the out-of-town scoreboard on the short porch in left field and gave the AL a 6-0 lead.

He followed that with a third-inning single and a fifth-inning strikeout, going 2-for-3. He also made a nice pickup on Sammy Sosa's third-inning grounder to second

years," said former Yankees teammate Derek Jeter.

Surrounded by his friends, Soriano felt as if he was back in the

"I feel tonight, honest, like I'm coming back to play for the Yankees," he said. "Having Joe Torre [as] manager, Jeter at short, [Jason] Giambi at first."

Socks stretched up high and always ready with a big grin, Soriano was a hit with the Yankees His homer in Game 7 of the 2001 World Series put Clemens in position to win before Arizona rallied in the ninth. But for all of Soriano's neat feats in New York, fans dwelled on his postseason last October, when he hit .206 with one homer, nine RBIs and a record 26 strikeouts in 68 at-bats.

When the opportunity arose in February to acquire Rodriguez, New York pounced and sent Soriano to the Rangers.

"I think it was a great trade for Sori because I think the people in New York lost sight of how inexperienced he is," Torre said. "So I



The Rangers' Alfonso Soriano went 2-for-3 with a three-run homer and was selected the MVP of the All-Star Game on Tuesday in Houston.

think it was an opportunity for him to get out, and he seems to have a smile on his face all the time.

Fans around the nation re sponded to Soriano's performance this season by giving him the most votes in balloting for the starting lineup, 3.47 million. And he rewarded them, becoming the first top vote-getter to earn the MVP award since fan halloting resumed in 1970.

He's only the fourth second baseman to win it, following Joe Morgan (1972), Julio Franco (1990) and Roberto Alomar (1998). After receiving the trophy from Commissioner Bud Selig, Soriano went straight to the interview room and beamed as his mother looked on from a front-row seat.

'Everything is for her," he

All-Star: Much anticipated battery has little power

ALL-STAR, FROM BACK PAGE Clemens and Piazza stood a

few feet apart before the team picture was taken near the hill in cen-ter field at Minute Maid Park, but did not speak to each other.

And while winning pitcher Mark Mulder warmed up with Rodriguez, Clemens started getting ready with a bullpen catcher. Piazza came over and caught just a couple of pitches before leaving the bullpen for pregame introduc

Before Ramirez hit a two-run homer on an 0-2 delivery, Clemens and Piazza took several seconds to agree on what to throw.

"We were a little indecisive there." Piazza said.

Piazza applauded, however, when Clemens was honored by Commissioner Bud Selig in a ceremony along the first-base line after the fourth inning.

Piazza said he spoke with Clemens in the trainer's room before the game, going over hitters and discussing some things the catcher described as "personal

"It was very amicable," Piazza said. "It wasn't awkward."

That said, Piazza never went to the mound while Clemens struggled and sweated. But when Randy Johnson gave up singles to Jason Giambi and Jeter in the third, Piazza walked out to talk with the Big Unit. Second baseman Jeff Kent



Boston Red Sox outfielder Manny Ramirez hits a two-run homer in the first inning of the All-Star Game in Houston on Tuesday.

didn't help Clemens, his Houston teammate, by making a two-out error on Giambi's grounder in the first. Jeter followed with a single and Soriano homered for a 6-0 lead.

It was the biggest outburst in an All-Star Game since Fred Lynn's grand slam highlighted a sevenrun inning for the AL in 1983

Clemens could only stand there and signal for a new ball, an embarrassed expression on his face. He still got a nice ovation from Astros fans when he struck out Mulder with his final pitch of the evening.

Alex Rodriguez, one of eight players from the first-place Yankees on the AL roster, hit an RBI triple in the fourth.

Ortiz, who replaced Ramirez, homered in the sixth. Boston boppers Ramirez and Ortiz became the first teammates to connect for the AL in an All-Star Game since Cleveland's Al Rosen and Larry Doby in 1954.

'We stayed pretty aggressive,' AL manager Joe Torre of the Yankees said

Jeter finished 3-for-3 after eing elected to his first All-Star start. At 7-for-10, the Yankees shortstop has the highest average of anyone with at least 10 All-Star at-bats

Sammy Sosa hit a broken-bat RBI single off Mulder in the first inning. Edgar Renteria hit an RBI double and St. Louis teammate Albert Pujols hit a two-run double off C.C. Sabathia to make it 7-4.

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League									
East Division									
	w	L	Pct	GB					
New York	55	31	.640	-					
Boston	48	38	.558	7					
Tampa Bay	42	45	.483	131/2					
Toronto	39	49	.443	17					
Baltimore	37	48	.435	171/2					
	d Divisio	n							
Chicago	46	38	.548	-					
Minnesota	47	40	.540	1/2					
Cleveland	42			51/2					
Detroit	42	45	.483	51/2					
Kansas City	31	54	.365	151/2					
	Division								
Texas	49	37	.570	-					
Oakland	47	39	.547	2					
Anaheim	47	40	.540	21/2					
Seattle	32	54	.372	17					
	lay's gar								
American League	9, Nati	onal	Leag	ue 4,					

No. Star Game

Wednesday's games

No games scheduled

Thursday's games

N.Y. Yankees (Contreras 6-3) at Detroit

Thursday's games
N.Y. Yankees (Contreras 6-3) at Detroit
(Bonderman 6-6)
Baltimore (Bedard 3-3) at Tampa Bay
(V.Zambrano 9-5)
Minnesota (Lohse 3-6) at Kansas City Greinke 1-6)
Boston (Lowe 7-8) at Anaheim (Washburn

eveland (Sabathia 5-4) at Seattle (Pi-

Left of 4.00 Statuting 3-49, at Section (Fre-Chicago White Sox (Garland 7-5) at Oak-and (Harden 3-5) Friday's games Baltimore at Tampa Bay N.Y. Yankees at Detroit Toronto at Texas Minnesota at Kansas City Chicago White Sox at Oakland Cleveland at Seattle

National League

Fast Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Philadelphia	46	41	.529	-					
Atlanta	45	42	.517	1					
Florida	45	43	.511	13/2					
New York	44	43	.506	2					
Montreal	31	56	.356	15					
Central Di	visio	on							
St. Louis	54	33	.621	-					
Chicago	47	40	.540	7					
Cincinnati	47	41	.534	71/2					
Milwaukee	45	41	.523	81/2					
Houston	44	44	.500	101/2					
Pittsburgh	39	47	.453	141/2					
West Div									
Los Angeles	48	38	.558						
San Francisco	49	40	.551	3/2					
San Diego	47	41	.534	2					
Colorado	36	51	.414	121/2					
Arizona .	31	58	.348	181/2					
Tuesday*	s ga	me							
American League 9.	Nati	ional	Leag	ue 4.					

Wednesday's games No games schedulad

Thursday's games
Philadelphia (Milton 11-2) at N.Y. Mets (Tr-Philadelphia (Milton 11-2) at N.Y. Mets (Trachsel 9-6) St. Louis (Morris 9-6) at Cincinnati (Sanchez 0-1) Montreal (L.Hernandez 6-8) at Atlanta (Wright 6-5)

Milwaukee (D.Davis 9-6) at Chicago Cubs Milwaukee (D.Davis 9-6) at Criticago Cubs (Prior 2-2) San Francisco (J.Williams 8-6) at Colorado (Jennings 8-7) Los Angeles (Weaver 6-9) at Arizona (Johnson 10-7)

Friday's games
Milwaukee at Chicago Cuhs
Florida at Pittak Florida at Pittsburgh Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets St. Louis at Cincinnati Montreal at Atlanta Diego at Houston Francisco at Colorado Angeles at Arizona

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Shaq-to-Heat trade is finally a done deal

By STEVEN WINE

The Associated Press

MIAMI — The Big Diesel has gone coast to coast.

The Lakers and Heat finalized a trade Wednesday sending Shaquille O'Neal to Miami, with Los Angeles getting Caron Butler, Lamar Odom, Brian Grant and a first-round draft pick.

The deal, ending O'Neal's eight-year tenure in Los Angeles, had been on the verge of completion since Saturday, when he met with Heat President Pat Riley and agreed to the trade. NBA attorneys approved it hours after the league's two-week moratorium on player movement ended.

m on player movement ended. "Today the Miami Heat took a giant step forward in our continued pursuit of an NBA championship," Riley said in a statement. "We feel that we have traded for the best player in the NBA."

The 7-foot-1, 340-pound O'Neal transforms into a title threat a franchise that has reached the conference finals only once in its 16-year history. The Heat have won one playoff series in the past four years and went 42-40 last season.

"I never imagined that we would acquire Shaquille O'Neal," guard Eddie Jones said. "It's once-in-a-lifetime trying to get a player like this guy. It's an unbelievable, unbelievable move."

O'Neal, 32, is coming off a season in which he averaged a career-low 21.5 points, and he has missed 15 games each of the past hree seasons with foot and leg injuries. But he's an 11-time All-Star with career averages of 27.1 points, 12.1 rebounds and 2.6 blocks, and he's moving to the Eastern Conference, where there's a dearth of dominating centers.

"I've always said that wherever he is, that's where the balance of power is," Indiana Pacers CEO Donnie Walsh said

The trade marks a return to Florida for O'Neal, who began his NBA career in 1992 with Orlando and still has a home there. He led the Magic to the Finals in 1995, signed with the Lakers as a free agent in 1996 and helped them win three NBA titles.

Days after the Lakers lost this

year's championship series to Detroit, O'Neal demanded to be traded, weary of feuding with Kobe Bryant and feeling disrespected

Bryant and feeling disrespected by owner Jerry Buss. He's under contract for \$27.7 million this coming season and \$30.6 million in 2005-06. The Lakers' most significant ac-

quisition is the versatile Odom, coming off the best season of his five-year NBA career. He and Butler were considered cornerstones in the Heat's recent rebuilding effort, while Grant is a 10-year yeteran.

Riley said he was saddened to part with all three players.

"It disheartens me to see them leave," Riley said. "However, you don't get many chances to acquire the best player in the league, and this was a trade I fel

With the departure of three starters, Riley will build his team around O'Neal, Olympian Dwyane Wade and Jones, Miami's leading scorer each of the past four seasons. The Heat will shop for help at both forward positions and backup point guard, and free agents will likely consider Miami a more appealing option with the addition of O'Neal.

"Everybody wants to be here now," said Jones, who played with O'Neal in Los Angeles from 1996 to 1998

Each player involved in the trade must pass a physical before joining his new team. O'Neal's first appearance in south Florida is expected to be Tuesday, the Heat said

Clippers deal to clear more salary cap room for Kobe

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

When the NBA announced the new sala

ry cap figure for the upcoming season, the Los Angeles Clippers found themselves \$11.65 million below it.

Needing another couple million to offer Kobe Bryant a maximum-salary contract, the Clippers found a way to do so.

The Clippers traded Melvin Ely and Eddie House to the expansion Bobcats for second-round draft picks in 2005 and 2006, clearing \$2.5 million in cap space. In announcing the deal, Clippers Vice President Elgin Baylor did not mention Bryant specifically but hinted the team was looking at "potential opportunities."

"We began discussions on this transaction in early July, with the goal of creating salary cap flexibility which would allow us to take advantage of any potential opportunities," he said.

Bryant is eligible to receive a starting sal-

ary of almost \$14.2 million, 105 percent of his 2003-04 salary of \$13.5 million.

Spokesmen for the Lakers and Clippers said they had no news to report on what Bryant might do. And with Bryant continuing to maintain a public silence — his agent, Rob Pelinka, said "Tim not commenting to the media at this time" — there was no telling when the 25-year-old might decide where he'll play next season.

Restricted free agents Mehmet Okur of Detroit and Carlos Boozer of Cleveland

signed offer sheets with Utah in the hours after the moratorium expired. The Pistons and Cavaliers have 15 days to match Utah's offer, but neither is expected to because they don't have enough money under the salary cap.

Also on Wednesday, center Mark Blount re-signed with the Boston Celtics, agreeing to a six-year, \$42 million contract. And Phoenix signed free agent guard

Quentin Richardson to an offer sheet, leaving the Clippers with 15 days to match the \$45 million, six-year offer.

After the

defending champion

10th stage, five-time

Arm-

trails

overall

leader

Thomas

Voeckler.

left, by 9

minutes.

35 sec-

Armstrong

55-second

Jan Ullrich.

lead over

top rival

onds.

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strong.

right, still

Armstrong gains a few seconds; Frenchman wins on Bastille Day

By John Leicester

SAINT-FLOUR, France

Seven seconds.
That might not seem much. But

in the three-week Tour de France, the advantage Lance Armstrong gained over two rivals Wednesday by sprinting to the finish line of the first mountain stage could be an important step toward the Texan's hoped-for record sixth crown.

At minimum, Armstrong struck a psychological blow showing that his 32-year-old legs still have enough zip after the Tour's longest stage to outshine Tyler Hamilton and Roberto Heras — former teammates raring to dethrone him.

But Armstrong's main rival, Jan Ullrich, wasn't caught napping. The German, a Tour winner in

The German, a Tour winner in 1997 and a five-time runner-up, stayed with the five-time champion. They finished in the same time.

The glory on Bastille Day went to Frenchman Richard Virenque, who took his seventh stage victory of a spotted career with a courageous solo ride, and French champion Thomas Voeckler, who retained the overall lead.

Armstrong still trails Voeckler by 9 minutes, 35 seconds. The 25-year-old Frenchman displayed his resilience by riding toward the front of the main pack for much of the 147-mile trek from Limoges and by out-sprinting Armstrong at the finish.

Voeckler placed fifth, Armstrong sixth and Ullrich 15th—the last in a group of 14 riders who finished together 5 minutes and 19 seconds behind Virenque's mark of 6 hours, 24 seconds. Other Armstrong rivals Ivan Basso and Iban Mayo also finished in that bunch.

Armstrong's burst of speed on the uphill finish was to ensure that riders with him didn't open a gap and gain time. In doing so, he left Hamilton and Heras trailing in a second group of 36 riders who finished seven seconds back.

with imissing seven seconities beginning the Tour is close, that time may prove precious. The 101-year-old race's narrowest winning margin remains American Greg Lemond's defeat of Frenchman Laurent Fignon in 1989. Last year, Armstrong beat Ullrich by just 61 second.

"Remember Fignon? He lost by eight seconds. It can be important," said Johan Bruyneel, sports director of Armstrong's U.S. Postal Service team.

Overall, Armstrong extended his advantage over Hamilton to 43 seconds and over Heras to 1 minute, 52 seconds. Ullrich preserved his 55-second deficit to Armstrong.

Hamilton's team manager Urs Freuler said the 33-year-old from Marblehead, Mass., was poorly 91st TOUR DE FRANCE

Downhill drop

Starting where the last stage finished, this trip from Saint-Flour to Figeac drops 2,729 feet from its highest point to the finish.





Source: Tour de France

positioned in the final stretch, "which is why a few seconds were lost."

In a taste of their expected battles to come in the harder Pyrenees and Alps, Armstrong



and Ullrich led the main pack up the hardest of nine climbs wednesday — a 3.5-mile ascent of Le Puy Mary, in the Massif polka-dot jers.

Central region of central France. While the climb and the stage were the hardest so far, Bruyneel said it was too early to tell whether the Texan is stronger than his challengers.

Armstrong "looked good and sounded good on the radio," Bruyneel said. "It was a hard climb ... but still very far from the finish of the race, so we can't really know now who is good and bad."

Armstrong was called for a doping test after the stage and did not talk to reporters.

Meanwhile, Virenque moved closer to his goal: to become the first seven-time winner of the polka-dot jersey as best climber.

Despite his involvement in a 1998 doping scandal, Morocco-born Virenque is admired for his climbing panache and was cheered by hundreds of thousands of people lining the route. He became the 14th Frenchman since World War II to win on Bastille Day and the first since Laurent Jalabert in 2001.

Virenque dedicated his victory to a friend who died two days earlier and his grandmother who died in June.

See results on Page 26.

Phelps yields spotlight to Crocker, Hall

The Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. - Michael Phelps sure doesn't look so unbeatable now.

For the second straight day Phelps touched the wall second at the U.S. Olympic swimming trials beaten Tuesday by another world-record performance

Ian Crocker eclipsed his own mark in the 100-meter butterfly to edge Phelps, whose quest to break Mark Spitz's record of seven Olympic gold medals appears more daunting than ever after 17 races over the past week.

"I've never been under that kind of stress in a meet before, Phelps said. "I'm very relieved it's over."

If he thinks this was bad, just wait until the Olympics. Ian Thorne and the rest of the world's ton swimmers will be waiting, eager to deny Phelps his place in histo-

Speaking of Athens, Gary Hall Jr. will be on hand to defend his title as the world's fastest Olympic swimmer after beating rival Jason Lezak in the 50 freestyle But Brooke Bennett is done, failing to earn a chance to win her

third straight gold in the 800 free. Crocker led at the turn and withstood a challenge coming down the stretch, touching the wall in 50.76 seconds — the sixth world record of the trials. Phelps finished in 51.15, the fourth-fastest time in history but not fast

"He definitely took me out in the first 50," Phelps said. "I was too far behind and couldn't play catch-up

Aaron Peirsol beat Phelps in the 200 backstroke final Monday also setting a world record. Crocker's time beat the mark of 50.98 he set during last year's world championships in Barcelona.

Hall will be trying to win his second straight gold in the 50 free, having tied Anthony Ervin



Ian Crocker celebrates his world record in the 100-meter butterfly with Michael Phelps in the background at the U.S. Olympic trials. Crocker won with a time of 50.76 and Phelps took second with a time of 51.15.

equaled the sixth-fastest time in history at 21.91, while Lezak touched second in 22.05.

Their rivalry was spurred on by trash-talking and other antics by Hall, Lezak and their representatives. But the two seemed to get along just fine after the 50, shaking hands and exchanging smiles.

'There's nothing between us in the first place," said Lezak, who heat Hall in the 100 free "We're both here to do a job. I did the job I was looking to do and I'm sure he's happy with what he did.'

climbed atop a starting block and howed to the cheering crowd Then, still dripping wet and wearing nothing but his suit, he walked into the stands to hug his wife. Later, he strolled around the deck wearing a stars-and-stripes

boxing robe, in keeping with his belief that the 50 is like a heavy-"I just wanted to get to the other end of the pool," Hall said. 'Last one there is a rotten egg.'

weight fight.

Hall has eight sprinting and relay medals from the past two



Gary Hall poses before winning the 50-meter freestyle at the U.S. Olympic swim trials.

Olympics. He'll have a chance to add to that haul in Athens, becom ing part of the first father-son duo to both qualify for three Olym-

Bennett, who succeeded Janet Evans as the queen of American distance swimming, finished third behind Diana Munz and Kalvn Keller in the 800 free to miss a spot on the Olympic team.

Bennett won the 800 at Atlanta and pulled off a 400-800 double at Sydney four years ago. But she hasn't been the same swimmer since undergoing surgery on both shoulders in 2001, struggling just to get out of the preliminaries "I gave it a good fight." Bennett

Munz, the 400 silver medalist in Sydney, won a great sprint to the wall in 8:26.06, barely edging Keller (8:26.33). Bennett was third at 8:29.39 — her best time since surgery but nearly 10 seconds slower than the winning time in Sydney.

While Phelps became the first U.S. swimmer to qualify in six individual events at the Olympics, the past two days cast serious doubts on his quest to break Spitz's record, set in the 1972 Mu-

Phelps decided on Wednesday to drop the 200-meter backstroke and swim five individual events. He qualified for at least one relay and also wants to swim the other two, which would still give him a chance to surpass Spitz.

"We decided to save the backstroke for another opportunity sometime down the road," Phelps said. "We wanted to do the best program we felt the most confi-dent with."

Crocker established his supremacy in the 100 butterfly with an upset of Phelps IN the 2003 world championships. Both swimmers eclipsed Phelps' previous world record on that night - a race that prompted Phelps to put up a picture of Crocker in his bedroom as extra motivation.

It didn't help at the trials, where Phelps swam the last of his 17 races during a grueling, weeklong stretch.

Michael is a phenomenal swimmer and he's trying to do something really special," Crocker said. "He is attracting attention to this sport we haven't had in a long time and it's a healthy

Then again, he's hardly the only swimmer at these trials worth noticing

Brendan Hansen set two world ecords in the breaststroke, while Peirsol, Crocker and Amanda Beard have as many as Phelps.

"Brendan Hansen, Aaron Peir sol and myself deserve similar at-tention," Crocker said.

The 21-year-old Maine native laid down a challenge to Phelps vowing to take the world record even lower in Athens.

"I promise," Crocker said Margaret Hoeltzer won the 200 backstroke in 2:11.88, benefiting from the absence of American record-holder Natalie Coughlin. She skipped the event to focus on the 100 freestyle and 100 back-

Usually quiet Johnson compares USADA to Gestapo be an independent body. Johnson said,

BY BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO Calif - Allen Johnson usually is a quiet champion.

His victories in the 110-meter hurdles have become almost routine, and he has evolved into one of the senior leaders of U.S. track and field

So his pointed criticism of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency seemed out of charac-ter this week at the U.S. Olympic track and

"It's almost like USADA is the Gestapo, some Nazi organization that's just out to ban as many athletes as they possibly can," Johnson said. "The doping system that the athletes are under right now, it needs to be

He feels the suspicion that has fallen on Marion Jones is not right. "It's not fair to drag somebody through

the mud because of who they've fallen in love with." Johnson said, referring to Jones' boyfriend Tim Montgomery, Jones took last year off to have the couple's son.

USADA wants Montgomery and three other track athletes banned from the sport for life. None of the four has tested positive, but USADA has accused them of doping offenses based on evidence gathered in the criminal probe of the Bay Area Laboratory Cooperative, USADA also has lowered the standard of conviction from "beyond a reasonable doubt" to a "comfortable assurance" by all those on the arbitration panel. The lower standards, however, may not be used in the four pending cases

Jones, who already has failed to make the team in the 100 meters and competes in the long jump final Thursday night, has accused of wrongdoing by USADA. She remains under investigation, despite her vehement denials of ever using banned substances.

"I think USADA should be on the side of the athletes, do more as far as educating the athletes what the rules are, how the rules work, how the whole process works," Johnson said. "I was always under the impression that USADA was an ally of mine. Looking at the way things are going now, USADA is in the business of promoting themselves, and the athletes and everybody else is on the other side.

Reminded that USADA was created to

"You can be independent, but at the same time you can still help the athletes out as far as educating us on how everything

Nobody is accusing Johnson of anything beyond running very fast for a long time. He is a four-time world champion and the 1996 Olympic gold medalist. Eight

vears after he set the American record of 12.92 - one-hundredths of a second off the world mark - Johnson has the world leading time of 13.05. In fact, he owns five of the top seven times in the event this year.

The other two belong to Chinese sensation Liu Xiang, who turns 21 on Thursday. Johnson edged Liu in a photo finish July 2

"I had a bad start, but I recovered in the fifth hurdle. In Athens, everything is possible, even beating Allen Johnson," Liu said

Johnson who also has a gold medal from the 1997 1.600-meter relay, is impressed by the young Chinese hurdler.

"I don't see too many flaws in his race technically." Johnson said. "So he's not going to make a mistake. He's almost perfect. That's why he's so difficult to beat

"I think I'm a little bit guicker, I think I can get out of the blocks a little quicker than he can, but his finish is definitely better than mine

Before he can worry about Liu, Johnson must finish in the top three in the trials. where his chief rivals are Larry Wade and 2000 Olympic silver medalist Terrence Trammell. Wade beat Johnson last month in the Prefontaine Classic.

Preliminaries in the 110 hurdles are Saturday, with the finals on Sunday,

Four years ago, Johnson was hampered by injuries and knocked down all 10 hurdles in the Olympic final. He has been thinking about Athens ever since, returning to win the world championships in 2001 and 2003.

But even though he will be 37 when the Beijing Games come around. Johnson has no use for those who might call this his Olympic farewell

"This will not be my last hurrah. This will not be my last Olympics," he said. "It's probably my second-to-last, though. I'm still running extremely well. There's still not anybody in the world who can run faster than me. Why quit?"

SPORTS



Tough U.S. trials run shows Phelps his quest to surpass Spitz won't be easy, Page 31

Rocket lit up at All-Star bash



Texas Rangers' Alfonso Soriano, center, is congratulated by former N.Y. Yankees teammate Derek Jeter, left, after Soriano's three-run homer in the first inning of Tuesday's All-Star Game against Houston Astros pitcher Roger Clemens. In foreground is Seattle Mariners' Ichiro Suzuki. Soriano was the game's MVP.

AL blasts Astros ace en route to 9-4 victory

BY BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Roger Clemens was all set for a homecoming bash.

Instead, it turned into an All-Star bust.

Left with a pained look on his face after MVP Alfonso Soriano and Manny Ramirez homered, Clemens was long

gone by the time the American League finished off its 9-4 victory over the National League on Tuesday night.

"I put our guys in a hole," Clemens said. And how.

And how.
With a sellout
crowd at Minute
Maid Park cheering for him before
the first pitch, and
an in-game tribute already scheduled, Clemens
gave up a record
six runs in the

uted. Clemens gave up six gave up a record six runs in the first inning of the six runs in the American League's 9-4 win. first inning.

The Houston Astros ace certain—all the time."

The Houston Astros ace certainly couldn't blame his catcher.

Feuding with Mike Piazza for four years, Clemens was forced to work with his nemesis this time. Piazza put down a series of signals and let the six-time Cy Young winner nick.

"Basically, I just try to roll through it. He stops me at what he wants to throw," Piazza said. It didn't work too well for Clem-

It didn't work too well for Clemens. Because after Muhammad Ali playfully jabbed at Derek Jeter during first-ball festivities, the slugging really started.

David Ortiz also homered and Jeter got three more hits as the Americans romped to their seventh straight win, not including the infamous tie in 2002. They closed their overall deficit to 40-33-2 and clinched home-filed advantage in the World Series for

the third year in a row. Ichiro Suzuki led off the game

with a double, Ivan Rodriguez followed with a triple and the rout was on. The Americans reduced the 41-year-old Rocket to a batting practice pitcher, becoming the first team in All-Star history to his for the cycle in an inming.

Soriano's second All-Star homer was a three-run shot off Clemens, his

former teammate.
"I feel a little
sorry because he's
been nice to me
the Texas second

baseman said.

Much of the pregame buildup centered on the checkered past between Clemens and Piazza. Clemens beaned the New York Mets catcher in the 2000 regular season at Yankee Stadium, then threw the jagged barrel of a broken bat toward him in the World

Even prior to the first pitch, it was clear their feud was still simmering.

SEE ALL-STAR ON PAGE 29

Frenchman a stage winner on Bastille Day; Armstrong holds his ground as Tour moves into mountains







O'Neal era over in L.A. as Lakers pull trigger on deal with Heat for players, draft pick Page 30

whoit

Floundering
Astros look
to Garner
to lead
second-half
surge after
firing
Williams
Page 28

Clippers up ante in Kobe Bryant sweepstakes Page 30

